

their knowledge and form their sentiments; indeed the Methodist teachers are subject to the orders of the Conference of the United States of America, and it is manifest that the Colonial Government neither has nor can have any other control over them, or prevent them from gradually rendering a large portion of the population, by their influence and instruction, hostile to our institutions, both civil and religious, than by increasing the number of the established Clergy. Two assertions have been made respecting the Church of England in Upper Canada, which, if correct, ought certainly to have considerable influence. First, that her Clergymen have no congregations. Now I affirm from personal knowledge, that in the 58 places where regular or occasional service is performed, numerous and respectable congregations assemble. The second assertion is, that in the House of Assembly, consisting of 44 members, only two belong to the Church of England. Now the fact is, that 18 out of the 44 profess to be of the Church of England, for the truth of which I pledge myself, and can, if necessary, furnish the names; the remaining 26 are of various denominations, but certainly not more than three or four Scotch Presbyterians.

The Church of England in Canada, was supported for many years out of the very limited and fluctuating revenue of the venerable Society for Propagating the Gospel in Foreign Parts, which did its utmost to increase the number of the clergy, but its means were so inadequate to the demand, that it was at length obliged to solicit the aid of government to continue and extend its efforts, accordingly a small sum, in aid of its funds, has been for some years voted by the Imperial Parliament, of which Upper Canada receives a portion. How inefficient this aid is to supply the increasing necessities of the colony has been sufficiently shown, for the tendency of the population is towards the Church of England, and nothing but the want of moderate support prevents her from spreading over the whole province.

But it may be asked, why do not the Clergy Reserves afford a remedy?

To make the answer to this question intelligible, a few remarks are necessary.

By the 31st of George the 3d, c. 31. one-seventh of the land in Upper Canada is reserved for the maintenance of a Protestant Clergy; the operation of which provision offers at this time the following results:—The number of townships actually surveyed may be taken at 240, averaging 66,000 acres, one-seventh of which, 9,428, equal 47 reserved lots of 200 acres each, consequently the number of such lots, in 240 townships, is about 11,000, containing 2½ million of acres.

But as these lands partake of the quality of those around them, many lots will be found, from various causes, unfit for cultivation, so that the number eligible for settlement cannot be taken at more than 9,000, containing 1,800,000.

That this provision will at no time be ample for the support of a religious establishment sufficient for the population of Upper Canada when fully settled, will sufficiently appear from the fact, that the whole surface of the colony does not exceed 31 millions of acres, of which not more than 26 are capable of cultivation; one-seventh of this, containing 3,760,000 acres, or 18,800 reserved lots of 200 acres each, will ultimately constitute the whole property set apart for the maintenance of a Protestant clergy. Now, judging from what takes place in the United States, each lot will not produce in a century an average rent of £. 20. per annum, making a total of no more than £. 376,000. which, divided among two thousand clergymen (a very small number for a country nearly as large as England) gives only £. 188. to each.

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