

THE RECTORIES OF CANADA.

Return to an Address of the Honourable the House of Commons, dated 11th March, 1839; for Copies or Extracts of the Correspondence between the Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada and the Secretary of State, on the Subject of the Creation of Rectories in that Province by Sir John Colborne.

H. LABOUCHERE.

Colonial Office, Downing Street,
26th March, 1839.

No. 1.

(No. 92.)

Copy of a Despatch from Lord Glenelg to Sir F. B. Head, K.C.H., Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada.

Downing Street, 31st August, 1836.

SIR—Among the Documents appended to the Report of the Committee of the House of Assembly of Upper Canada, to whom was referred your Correspondence with your late Executive Council, is a Schedule of the patents for land granted as endowments to the Church of England in that Province, and a return of property ceded by certain parties in exchange for endowments. The incomplete manner in which these returns are drawn up renders it impossible to discover the date of the greater portion of the transactions to which they refer; but it would appear from the heading of one of the returns, that several Rectories have been endowed during the current year; although, I presume, before your assumption of the Government of Upper Canada. As this is a subject of considerable importance, and as it has attracted the notice of the public, both in this country and in the province, I have to request that you will supply me with an explanation of the returns to which I have alluded; specifying the dates at which the several endowments were conceded, and, as far as possible, the grounds of the respective grants.

I need not, I am sure, point out to you, that, pending the settlement of the Clergy Reserve Question, it is indispensable that no further allotment of church lands should take place, without the express sanction of His Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) GLENELG.

No. 2.

(No. 101.)

Copy of a Despatch from Sir F. B. Head, K.C.H., Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada, to Lord Glenelg.

Toronto, Upper Canada, 17th Dec., 1836.

MY LORD,—In compliance with the directions contained in your Lordship's Despatch, No. 92, I have the honour to transmit herewith documents showing the number and nature of the endowments to the Church of England which were made by my predecessor.

Your Lordship will perceive that the patents of these endowments are all dated after my arrival at New York, and while I was on my journey to Toronto; and though I have never mentioned the circumstance before, I will not now withhold from your Lordship, that the feeling which the endowment of these Rectories created throughout the province was one of the many difficulties I had to contend against during the late Elections.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

F. B. HEAD.

Enclosure referred to in No. 2.

(A.)

Morning Courier.

Montreal, Friday, 17th Feb., 1837.

A most animated debate took place in the Upper Canada Assembly on the 9th inst., on the report of the Select Committee to whom the petitions respecting the Rectories, from several Presbyterian Congregations, had been referred. Mr. McKay, Chairman of the Committee, submitted a series of resolutions condemnatory of the recent establishment of Rectories in the Province, but proving not quite palatable to the House, they were rejected by a small majority. They went the length of abolishing the Rectories already established. In lieu of them, the following, proposed by Mr. McLean, were adopted:—

1st. Resolved, That by the thirty-eighth clause of the Act 31, Geo. 3, cap. 31, power is given to His Majesty to authorize the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or person administering the Government of this Province, with the advice of the Executive Council, to constitute and erect within every Township or Parish one or more Parsonages or Rectories according to the establishment of the Church of England, and from time to time to endow such Parsonage or Rectory with lands

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