

"not without difficulty," a "payment of 85 per cent," might be made "on the entire amount of the Salaries" of the Missionaries. From this statement it appears very evident, that the Imperial Government fully admit the justice of the claims of the Missionaries to the full amount of their Salaries, and only defend the reduction of those Salaries on the plea of necessity, arising from the inadequacy of the funds at their disposal in the Colony. If they had possessed the means, it is apparent beyond all doubt, that they would have paid the full amount, to which in truth, the Faith of the Crown was in a measure pledged, by paying 85 per cent of the original Salaries, and urging solely inability arising from insufficiency of funds to meet the full amount, the Government, as stated in the Petition, admitted the equity of the claim for the full amount of 100 per cent, and moreover justified the expectation that at some future period, the loss sustained by the reduction of 15 per cent, would be made good to them. They were further led to entertain and cherish this expectation from the language of their then excellent Bishop, the late pious Doctor Stewart, that Venerable Bishop, acting as the medium of communication between the Government and his Clergy, when announcing the reduction of our Salaries, held out to us the hope, that whenever the income of the Clergy Reserve Fund would admit of an increase of our Salaries, they would be again restored to their original amount. To this hope the Missionaries have ever clung, and never have they relinquished the full conviction, that their claims for arrears of Salary, and a restoration to their original incomes were good in equity against the Government, on whose faith they had relied, and whose inability to pay their full Salaries, had subjected them to an annual loss of £54 Ss. 9d. Currency. For the reduction in their incomes was not merely from £200 Sterling to £170 Sterling; but they suffered the further loss of the difference between £200 British and £170 Provincial Sterling. The claims of the order Clergy are, ^{therefore} only for £30 British Sterling a year, from July 1st, 1853, to July 1st 1854, and to be placed for the future on their original salary of £200 Sterling.

the difference is added equal to £54.9.0 by

From the preceding statement it is apparent that there are three general classes of claimants, comprising in all about twenty-five, and they ask in the first instance for an opportunity of establishing their respective claims before a Committee of your Honorable House, upon whose Report if favourable, as they trust it will be, they will expect from the justice of the House that redress, to which they conceive that they are justly entitled.

They feel it moreover their duty to state that there are several Widows and Children of Clergymen deceased, who were on the Society's list of Missionaries prior to 1833, who will also be entitled to claim arrears, for longer or shorter periods from that date, to the period of their husbands' deaths respectively; the number of these is not exactly known to the undersigned, but their cases cannot be many, nor the sums claimed by them of any large amount.

It would be tedious to relate the various efforts, which at successive periods, the Petitioners have made for the recovery of their just rights, suffice it to remark, that while they were preparing to renew their applications, the subject of the Clergy Reserves was again brought before the Imperial Parliament, the result of which was the passing of the late Imperial Act, in which express reservation was made of the rights of existing incumbents, and especially where the faith of the Crown was concerned. Now the undersigned trust, that it is apparent from the preceding statements, and the documents referred to, that the faith of the Crown was originally pledged to the Missionaries; that the Imperial Government admitted the justice of their claims, and only pleaded their inability, from the Colonial resources at their command, to make good the full amount of their Salaries. The petitioners therefore feel, that their claims justly come within the Spirit of the reservation of rights made in the late Imperial Act, and therefore they pray the Legislature to give to their claims that favourable consideration to which they believe that they are justly entitled.

HENRY PAITON,
B. CRONYN,
WM. McMURRAY.

Quebec, 18th October, 1854.