

No. 3.
Sir G. Arthur to
Lord Glenelg,
28 Nov. 1838.

Enclosure No. 1.

That, with a view to the settlement of this question, any plan for the division of this property amongst various sects and denominations, which would directly compromise the principles as well as interests of the Established Church, endanger the cause of Protestantism, and lead to a religious discord, which must prove the fruitful and permanent source of civil disunion, your Memorialists are constrained from an equal sense of duty to oppose.

That your Memorialists feel bound to express it as their decided conviction, that the agitation which has ensued from the discussion of this question, and the excitement of which it has been rendered the instrument, are not to be ascribed to the simple merits of the question itself, but to the misrepresentations and abuse of the public mind, which, in many cases, for interested and unhallowed purposes, have been industriously made.

That although, in the opinion of your Memorialists, the operation of the Act for the appropriation of the clergy reserves, as understood by themselves, could not possibly prove a grievance, but a blessing of the highest order to the community, they do not view without pain and anxiety the political disquiet and religious animosity to which the agitation of this question has unhappily given rise, and that they are most desirous of its adjustment upon some basis which may ensure the peace as well as preserve the religious interests of the country.

That, from the influence of conflicting prejudices and interests, your Memorialists are firmly of opinion that an impartial, equitable and satisfactory adjustment of the question of the clergy reserves cannot be expected from the Provincial Legislature.

That your Memorialists, not deeming themselves competent to make any concession which may compromise or appear to compromise in any degree the interests of the Church and their successors in the ministry, earnestly pray, for the sake of peace, a judicial decision of the question before a competent tribunal, either the Judges of England or the judicial branch of Her Majesty's most Honourable Privy Council; or should this their honest prayer be found after every effort unavailing, that then an Act be passed by the Provincial Legislature, reinvesting the clergy reserves in the Queen in Parliament, to be appropriated for the support of a Protestant clergy in this province, according to the spirit and intention of the Constitutional Act.

Wherefore your Memorialists most earnestly solicit your Lordship to interpose the influence of your high station in behalf of this their prayer.

That the Divine wisdom and blessing may direct the consultations of your Lordship to the glory of God and to the good of his people, is the fervent prayer of the clergy of Upper Canada.

In the name and on behalf of the Clergy,

(signed)

G. Montreal.

George O'Kill Stuart, LL. D.

Archdeacon of Kingston.

John Strachan, D. D., LL. D.,

Archdeacon of York.

Toronto, Upper Canada,
11 October 1838.

Second Enclosure in No. 3.

To the Reverend the Clergy of the Established Church of *England*, in Visitation assembled, under the authority of the Lord Bishop of the Diocese of *Montreal*.

Enclosure No. 2.

I HAVE perused with deep attention the Memorial wherein you bring under my consideration the question of the clergy reserves, praying that they may not be alienated from the original object of their appropriation, but that they may be preserved to the exclusive benefit of the Established Church of *England* in *Upper Canada*.

It is my intention to bring before the Legislature, at its next session, a Bill, reinvesting these reserves in the Crown, as a primary measure, and in discussing with them the Church question generally, to devise such remedies as may prove the means of effecting an equitable and a satisfactory adjustment of the claims both of yourselves and others.

Believe me, that I feel the most lively interest in this matter; and that it is, and long has been, my earnest desire to reconcile the differences to which the agitation of the question forming the subject of your Memorial has given rise.

The present unsettled state of the province is a serious impediment to the calm and dispassionate consideration of points affecting the interests of the Church; but I look with confidence to the eventual establishment of order, and to the return of confidence and security.

(signed) *George Arthur.*