

His Majesty's Government, therefore, have neither the power nor the inclination to interfere with the proceedings of the Upper Canada Legislature on this subject, since those are founded on an enactment of the Imperial Parliament specially designed to meet such a contingency. Nor can they hesitate to express their opinion, that an attempt on the part of the executive Government to maintain, in exclusive privileges any particular communities of Christians in the North American continent, in opposition to the expressed wishes of the representatives of the people, would lead to results far from advantageous to the general interests of Christianity.

Lord Glenelg, however, has every reason to hope, that whatever arrangement may ultimately be made in Upper Canada as to the clergy reserves, the claim of the Scottish Church to a fair participation in the proceeds of these lands, in proportion to the number of the members of that Church in the province, will be as fully and cordially admitted by the provincial legislature as by his Majesty's Government.

In Lower Canada, the sale of the clergy reserves has been very limited, and the proceeds of such sales are, consequently, of comparatively small amount; but as no specific appropriation of the dividends arising from the investment of such proceeds has yet been made, Lord Glenelg trusts that he shall be enabled, without delay, to direct the appropriation of a certain sum arising from this source, in aid of the ministers of the Church of Scotland in that province, and that such aid will be continued so long as the distribution of this fund shall be left by the provincial legislature in the hands of his Majesty's Government.

His lordship fully admits that the ex-

pectation held out by Lord Bathurst in 1825, to the General Assembly of the Scottish Church, entitled the ministers of that Church to the most favourable consideration in the distribution of any funds applicable to religious instruction, nor is he disposed to question that the instruction conveyed by the Earl of Ripon to Lord Aylmer in the month of December, 1850, was intended in some degree to give effect to that expectation.

But Lord Glenelg desires me to remind you of the circumstances which prevented the fulfilment of Lord Ripon's instruction. The assistance promised by Lord Bathurst had been expressly made contingent on the sufficiency of the funds at the disposal of the Crown to supply it. In 1850, Lord Ripon, having every reason to expect that a civil list would be granted by the Assembly of Lower Canada, proceeded to explain the manner in which the surplus of the Crown revenues, which would in that event accrue, ought to be applied, and, among other changes, he specified the grant to which you have alluded, of £500 per annum to the Scottish Church.

But the contingency, on which Lord Ripon had calculated, never came to pass, the Assembly of Lower Canada having refused to grant a civil list.

It therefore became necessary to revoke the instruction of 24th December, 1850, and to apply the whole of the Crown revenues to the indispensable services of the Government; but as all the items enumerated therein, except the grant to the Scottish Church, had previously been provided from other sources, Lord Ripon, in order to prevent a large degree of individual suffering and distress, consented to apply to Parliament to provide, during the lives of the actual incumbents and no longer,