

to other religious communities; and, particularly to afford some timely aid in the case of the district of Guelph. In order to meet, even in a small degree, the necessities of the case, and to make any permanent provision for the religious wants of a scattered and continually increasing population, it will be necessary not only to defray the unliquidated charges of the erection of the church at Guelph, but to raise a fund which shall enable the minister and his parishioners, with the advice and direction of their bishop, to build a sufficient number of schoolhouses in different parts of that extensive district, and provide schoolmasters for the religious instruction of the rising generation. These schoolmasters may also act in a more general capacity as catechists; and the schoolhouse itself, however humble, may constitute a room in which the sacraments may be occasionally administered, and the Word of God preached to a famishing people; until, by the Divine blessing, labourers shall be sent forth with more abundance into the vineyard, and more appropriate and substantial buildings erected and set apart for the service of religion.

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No. 29.

Sir,

Downing-street, 21 March 1837.

I AM directed by Lord Glenelg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 9th instant, on the subject of the insufficiency of the provision which at present exists in Upper Canada for the erection of churches and schools for the Church of England population of that Province, and urging on Her Majesty's Government the propriety of assisting this object, by a grant of public money. In support of your application, you observe, that similar assistance has at various times been granted to other communities of Christians in Upper Canada; and an especial reference is made to a grant of 90*l.* in aid of a Roman-catholic chapel erected at Guelph.

In reply, Lord Glenelg directs me to assure you that there is no subject connected with the Canadas in which His Majesty's Government take a more lively interest than the general extension of religious and moral instruction among the inhabitants; and his Lordship would therefore willingly accede to your application if the means of doing so were at his disposal. His Lordship, however, regrets that there is no fund at present subject to the control of His Majesty's Government from which any grant for objects of this nature could now be made. The disposal of the Clergy Reserves in Upper Canada was submitted to the Legislature of that province so far back as November 1831, while it has recently been proposed to surrender, on certain conditions, to the Assembly the appropriation of the casual and territorial revenue, subject of course to its existing burthens. Pending the consideration of this question by the Provincial Legislature, His Majesty's Government feel that they would not be justified in imposing on the casual and territorial revenue any charges to which it was not subject at the time of the proposal of surrender, nor does the fund derived from the sales of the Clergy Reserves afford the opportunity of complying with your application, the interest arising from that fund being entirely absorbed in paying the stipends of the clergy of the Church of England.

Lord Glenelg, however, has reason to hope that the appropriation of the Reserves will, at a very early period, be settled on principles which will render them more available than they have hitherto been for the increase of the means of religious instruction in the colony, and that liberal provision will be made by the Provincial Legislature for the advancement of education. I am further to observe, that you appear to be under some misapprehension with reference to the comparative amount of assistance hitherto afforded to the members of the Church of England, and to other denominations of Christians in Upper Canada. It may be inferred, from your letter, that you imagine the latter have been placed in a more favourable position than the former in the distribution of the funds formerly at the disposal of the Government, and applicable to religious purposes. As Lord Glenelg would much regret the prevalence of so erroneous an impression, he directs me to state to you the following facts: The total pecuniary assistance granted to the clergy of the Church of England in Upper Canada, out of the proceeds of Clergy Reserves and the casual and territorial revenue, amounted, during the three years ending on 31st Decem-

No. 29.

Sir G. Grey to the  
Rev. H. F. Palmer,  
21 March 1837.