

ports the proposal above made, we are sure that its author will excuse us for taking the liberty of thus making it public.

To the Editor of the Church.

Rev. and dear Sir;—Wishing to become a subscriber to 'The Church,' will you be so good as to have my name inserted as such.

Having read an article in the last number by "Alan Fairford," which every one I should think must highly approve, wherein he mentions the idea of the laity subscribing for a number of extra copies of 'The Church' to be distributed by the Travelling Missionaries in the back country, I should wish, if it most your approbation, to be put down for another number, which I should feel obliged to you to dispose of in any manner you may think calculated to do good. It is but a mite, but in good ground it may increase.

I remain, with great respect, wishing your paper the success it so much deserves,

Dear Sir, yours truly,

27th June, 1838.

We subjoin a document, extracted from the London 'Morning Herald' of the 31st May, which we recommend to the particular attention of our readers. It is a petition to the House of Commons from members of the Established Church in Blackburn, England, vigorously contending for a principle, the maintenance of which is as important to the mother country as to her Colonial possessions,—we mean the integrity and perpetuity of our church property. While this petition, like the one lately given from the learned and influential University of Oxford, affords gratifying evidence of a growing interest in the United Kingdom for the spiritual improvement of these Provinces, it may be regarded as the index of a rising spirit,—soon we believe to pervade the great mass of the intelligent and influential conservative population in the parent country,—which will never suffer the best interests of these colonies to be sacrificed to the impotent and unchristian policy which of late years is so frequently to be discerned in the management of the affairs of our great Empire. While for the maintenance of place, and its appendages of lucre or authority, the present cabinet court and avail themselves of the support of the most ferocious and unprincipled opponents of our Protestant Constitution in Church and State; and while, swayed by this unhallowed influence, they seem willing to surrender to any murmurer the same time-honoured safeguards of our Constitution here; we have, happily, that check upon their heedless and revolutionary projects, which is furnished in the conservative might and conservative principle of the mother country. In the face of that powerful and patriotic body, they dare not carry into effect their plans of spoliation: the thunders of an unrivalled eloquence in the legislative halls, and the plaudits with which that eloquence is greeted by millions without, tell them, in language not to be mistaken, that Britons are not yet so degenerate as to part with their Protestant privileges,—not yet so degraded as to yield to the demands of the infidel and the leveller, the best, the surest safeguard of the throne. The battle fighting for them is a combat also for us; and victory there will be echoed in the fulness of its triumph here.

CLERGY RESERVES—CANADA.

To the Honorable the Commons of the United Kingdom, &c. &c.

THE HUMBLE PETITION OF THE COMMITTEE, MEMBERS AND SUBSCRIBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION IN THE DEANERY OF BLACKBURN, IN AID OF THE INCORPORATED SOCIETY FOR THE PROPAGATION OF THE GOSPEL IN FOREIGN PARTS, AGREED TO AT A PUBLIC MEETING OF THE SAID SOCIETY ON ASCENSION-DAY, 1838.

Sheweth,—That your petitioners, from statements resting on indubitable authority which have been laid before them, respecting the present state of the Church of England in British North America, have reason to believe that certain proceedings have taken place there under the auspices of Her Majesty's present government, which are not only highly prejudicial to the interests of the church and the colonies themselves, but indefensible in respect of moral equity, and unjustifiable as regards the maxims of the British constitution, and the legal vested rights of British subjects.

That your petitioners earnestly entreat the immediate attention of your honorable house to the following particulars, and beg that such investigation may by your directions be made into them, that the injustice endured by the church in those distant colonies, and the several grievances complained of may be redressed, and an effectual prevention of their recurrence provided, lest they should become both a permanent injury to the cause of religion abroad, and a precedent for equally illegal and onerous usurpation at home.

That your petitioners beg leave, very respectfully but firmly, to enter their protest and remonstrance against the resumption of those lands in Upper and Lower Canada, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward's Island, which were, by an act of parliament, in or about the year 1740, solemnly reserved and set apart as glebe lands, for the maintenance of the clergy of the communion of the Church of England, or for sites of churches and schools. The provisions of that act of the Legislature were final and conclusive. Those grants were made to the church of England, for the spiritual benefit of the settlers and other emigrants there, and of their descendants, and being made in equal good faith with any lay grants, your petitioners conceive that neither the government of the mother country nor the colonial legislature has any moral or equitable right to resume them in prejudice of the church of England.

That your petitioners have reason to believe that the resumption of these lands, which has already taken place to a great extent, is not only an act of flagrant injustice in itself, but has also been effected in a fraudulent and illegal manner. It was thought advisable, as those lands very slowly became productive and means were required for the maintenance of additional clergymen, that a portion of these "clergy reserves" should be sold, and pecuniary grants made from the proceeds to this purpose. The government at home recommended such sale, on the sole ground that the lands remaining unoccupied were an obstruction to the improvement of the colony. It was also approved of by the North American Bishops, under the urgent necessities of the case: but neither the British Government nor the bishops of Quebec and Nova Scotia contemplated any other distribution of the proceeds of these sales save that of provision for the church of England and her ministers, according to the act of the British Parliament which first granted these clergy reserves. It was, however, thought advisable that the proposed sale should have the sanction of the colonial legislature. But the act of the general assembly passed for that purpose contained provisions for

disposing of these sums in a manner entirely different from that directed in the original act of parliament. This act of the colonial legislature your petitioners believe to be illegal, no colonial authority having power to rescind and abrogate an act of the supreme legislature: The Canadian church trusted and felt confident that this surreptitious and illegal clause, which went the fearful length of placing the permanent property of the church of England in those provinces at the discretion and disposal of the colonial House of Assembly, would be negated by the government at home. They learned with grief and consternation that the act of the assembly containing this illegal clause was laid before his late Majesty by the present advisers of the British Crown: and that our late sovereign was thus induced, inadvertently and unintentionally, to give his high sanction, by the direct recommendation of the Secretary of State for the colonies, to a measure which rescinded an act of the British parliament, and despoiled the churches in our north American colonies of all their permanent property. In consequence of this transaction, which your petitioners conceive to have originated in an illegal assumption of power in the colonial legislature, and to have been completed by fraud and treachery in some responsible quarter at home, the lands in question, originally granted in good faith by an act of parliament to the churches in Canada, Nova Scotia, &c., have been to a great extent, sold, and the proceeds applied to other purposes than the advancement of religion under the auspices of the church of England. The correspondence between the Incorporated Society and the colonial office proves that it is the avowed intention of her Majesty's present ministry to pursue and authorize this system of confiscation, and to place the money, arising from the sale of the clergy Reserves, at the disposal of the colonial legislature, without even stipulating for any portion being applied to the purposes for which these lands were set apart by act of parliament. In Prince Edward's Island, the lands reserved for the sites of churches and schools have been sold for four thousand pounds currency, and applied to other purposes, so that they have passed away for ever from the church and her ministers. This act of wanton and unprovoked aggression your petitioners consider to be in every way mischievous in its consequences and illegal in its nature, and to have been prompted by a spirit of animosity against that church, of which our sovereign is the supreme head on earth, and which the British crown and its responsible servants are bound by every obligation, both moral and religious, to uphold and protect to the utmost of their power. No want of efficiency or zeal, no neglect of their high duties, no insubordination or mal-conduct on the part of the clergy, has been even pretended as a colour for this forcible resumption of church property, which your petitioners can regard in no other light than unprincipled confiscation and wholesale robbery of the church of God.

That your petitioners would gladly, and in the spirit of Christian charity, put any favorable interpretation on the conduct of public men, where their measures admit of such indulgence; but, in the present case, facts do not permit them to do so. Early in the year 1837, the Bishop of Montreal apprised the Incorporated Society that he had applied for the sum of £600 per annum, arising from the interest of money raised by the sale of the "clergy reserves," for the support of additional clergymen in Lower Canada. The society, in consequence, applied to the Secretary of State for the colonial department, engaging to advance an equal sum, if the request of the Bishop of Montreal were complied with.—This "proposal," says the Society's report, "was not accepted; Lord Glenelg feeling it his duty to appropriate the sum above mentioned to the support of ministers of the church of Scotland." Your petitioners allow that it may be very correct for that noble Lord, or any other individual, to devote money which is his own absolute property, to any form of religion which he happens to prefer. But when a servant of the British crown avows that he thinks it his duty to evade an act of parliament, in order to deprive our American churches of property granted to them in perpetuity, and which they have possessed for nearly a hundred years, your petitioners think it is high time for the people of Great Britain and the friends of the church of England to assert their rights, and to demand restitution of the squandered property, having reason to apprehend that such a very remarkable sense of duty on the part of Her Majesty's servants may lead to even greater violations of law and equity; and therefore your petitioners have been induced to lay their claims to that effect, and make their complaints known at the bar of your honorable house, and at the foot of the throne, where they trust that their remonstrances will be effectually attended to.

That your petitioners have further to lament and represent to your honorable house that another attempt has been made to inflict a grievous injury on the church, by steps taken for the abolition of King's College at Windsor, in Nova Scotia. This valuable establishment has been the nursery for the clergy of the Province, and the present flourishing state of the institution and its services to the church, as well as its public usefulness in general education, which are not denied, prove how essential its continuance and prosperity are to the welfare of the colony. A scanty supply, which had been granted by parliament ever since the charter was first issued, has been suddenly withdrawn, and the governors of the college have been called upon to surrender the charter itself.—The intention of this summary command is, that the buildings and other property of King's College may be united with those of Dalhousie College, and handed over for the support of one general seminary, on no church principles or religious system at all, for which the assembly would be called upon to frame a popular constitution. Your petitioners would represent that this could not be done without a total disregard of the charter and constitution of King's College, the intentions of its royal founder, and those of its numerous benefactors, among whom are to be numbered the members of the Incorporated Society, which has expended above £700 annually through a long series of years, in the foundation of scholarships and exhibitions. Your petitioners see no more ground of equity or plea of right for this proposed measure, than might be advanced with equal colour for the total confiscation of any College in Oxford or Cambridge, or indeed for the entire suppression of either of those learned universities. And your petitioners would observe, that if the people of England do not loudly express the indignation which such proceedings are calculated to excite, with the most resolute determination to obtain justice, they will have reason to expect, as they will assuredly merit, the same measure of iniquitous dealing to themselves which they have tamely submitted out to their colonies.

Your petitioners therefore humbly and respectfully beseech your honorable house to direct such investigation into the conduct of the colonial department at home, and that of the local legislature in our north American dependencies, on the

subject of church property, as may form the groundwork of some legislative enactment, whereby the Church of England in those provinces may be reinstated in all her rights, indemnified for the losses which she has illegally sustained, and protected in futuro from all similar acts of aggression. And your petitioners will ever pray, &c.

Signed, in their name, by an unanimous resolution of the association.

JOHN WILLIAM WHITTAKER, D.D., Vicar of Blackburn, One of the Vice-Presidents and Chairman. May 24, 1838.

CONFORMITY TO THE CHURCH.

Since the addition of the means of church accommodation in this town, by the opening of St. Peter's, several families previously connected with dissenting congregations, have conformed to the Established Church, some from deliberate preference, others, of course, conservatives, compelled to seek refuge there from annoyance, amounting to persecution, on account of their political opinions.—*Maldstone Journal.*

Summary of Civil Intelligence.

By the arrival of the Packet Ships 'Burgundy' from Havre, and 'Virginian' from Liverpool, we have London dates to the 7th and Paris to the 8th of June. We subjoin the following items of the most interesting intelligence received by these arrivals:—

CORONATION.—The preparations at Westminster Abbey are advancing with much rapidity, the chief portion of the carpenter's work having been completed. The oriel and side galleries are now under the decorative hand of the upholsterers, and report speaks of the silks and stuffs which are to be used as coverings for the seats, canopies, &c. as most costly and elegant. The orchestral gallery is in forwardness, and when it is completed, and the new organ, which is described as an instrument of surpassing power and rich tone, is in its destined place, it is expected that the interior of the Abbey will present a coup d'œil of magnificence and architectural grandeur equal to any thing attempted in Europe on a similar occasion.

The important ceremony is fast approaching; and although the ministry would not have the day made one of rejoicing on the usual scale of splendour, yet it appears the whole population of the united kingdom will devote the day to festivity.

The most prominent topic of the London papers is the fatal riot near Canterbury, of which we published a long account on the arrival of the Great Western. The subject had been brought up in Parliament, in consequence of certain serious charges alleged against the magistrates of Kent, and the keeper of the Lunatic Asylum in which Courtenay had been confined, for allowing him to go at large. The charge was made in the Chronicle. Courtenay's real name, it seems, was John Nicholls Tom.

The affair was investigated by the magistrates on the 4th, at Feversham in Kent, fifteen of the prisoners being before them, four of whom were committed on the charge of wilful murder. Nine of the rioters were killed in the affray.

The London Chronicle of June 7 contains a full report of the Dinner given to Sir Francis Head, on the 6th. When the health of Sir Francis was proposed, he rose and commenced a speech in which, he said, he was anxious to explain what had been the conduct of the North American colonies, and that of the United States and their citizens; but before he had entered upon the details of his exposition, "he was so much overcome by his embarrassment that he was utterly unable to go on, and after several unavailing attempts, resumed his seat amidst loud cheers."

The Royal William, steam-packet, it is stated in the Liverpool Mail, was to sail from that port for New York on the 5th July. She is said to be a vessel of great speed, and first rate accommodations.

Martin the lunatic who set fire to the York Minster some years ago, died in Bedlam on the third of June. Although quiet in his department, he was obliged to be closely watched, having a strong propensity for mischief. He was between 50 and 60 years of age.

WEST INDIES.

In the Jamaica Royal Gazette of June 9, is the following announcement:

"It has been decided by the Honourable House of Assembly, that the remaining two years of the apprenticeship of the prædial labourers shall be abandoned, and that entire, complete, and unrestricted freedom shall take place on the 1st of August next in this island."

The following is taken from the Jamaica Times:

"It is with sincere pleasure we congratulate the island on the successful issue of the deliberations of the House of Assembly. Freedom will ere long be proclaimed—full, complete, and unrestricted freedom will be conferred on those who according to law, would have had to continue in servitude two years more. No dissentient voice was heard within the walls of the Assembly, all joined in the wish so often expressed, that the remaining term of Apprenticeship should be cancelled, that the excitement produced by a law which has done inconceivable harm in Jamaica, in alienating the affections of her people, and creating discord and disaffection, should at once cease. Thank God! it is now nearly at an end, and we trust that Jamaica will enjoy that repose, so eagerly and anxiously sought after, by all who wish the Island well."

UNITED STATES.

FROM TEXAS.—The Texas Chronicle of May 19 alludes to the report that has been more than circulated in New Orleans, of the recognition of Texian independence by Great Britain, and says that it cannot be true, because the latest despatches from the Texan minister to England stated that he had not been able to effect the recognition there, and was going to try his luck in France. We thought as much—and said so too.—*N.Y. Com. Adv. July 2.*

Trial of Benjamin Rathbun.—The case of this gentleman went to the Jury yesterday afternoon, and after they had been absent a short time, they returned into Court with a verdict of not guilty. There was some cheering on the announcement of the verdict.

On the two other indictments here against Mr. R. for forgery, he has been discharged without giving bail, and without entering into any recognizance to appear at any of the courts to be holden in this county. There are yet two indictments pending against him, we believe, in Genesee County.—*Duffalo Journal.*

NARROW ESCAPE OF BILL JOHNSON.

We find the following in the last Kingston Chronicle. We understand, with reference to an Extra from Sacketts Harbour, published below, that Lieutenant Leary, R. N., Commanding the Ball Frog, with a party of Tars, landed on Grindstone Island last Thursday morning, got to the house or hut where the noted Bill Johnson, with 6 or 8 followers, were quartered; but being seen just as they were getting to the house the pirates instantly made their escape through the brush, with the exception of two, who were taken with two or three muskets. Lieut. L. with some sailors followed the fugitives, cutlass in hand, but not knowing the intricate track through the brushwood, they were unable to overtake any of them; they, however, found out Johnson's strong hold, Fort Wallace, and obtained 12 or 15 stands of arms, several pistols and pikes ball cartridges, a flag bearing the name of Sir William Johnson &c. &c. The two prisoners were handed over to Captain Gwynn, of the American Army, Commanding the Steamboat Telegraph. By arrangement, the arms ammunition, &c. are retained by Lieut. Leary, until the Commandant's instructions are had regarding them.

From the Jefferson County Whig Extra.

Sacketts Harbor, July 12, 1 P. M.

About 10 o'clock this morning the steamer Telegraph, in the service of the United States, arrived from a cruise among the Thousand Islands, and brought with her two prisoners of Johnson's gang of desperadoes, and Johnson's famous twelve oared boat, so much extolled for its swiftness.

On the morning of the 11th (yesterday) Capt. Gwynn of the 1st Regiment of Infantry, commanding the Telegraph, obtained information of the haunt of Johnson, and with the British party, made arrangements for surprising and capturing the gang, but owing to the difficulty of approaching the house on account of the roughness of the country, and the density of the woods and thickets, the parties did not approach simultaneously, as was intended, the British party getting to the ground a little sooner than the other, and approaching on the same side. The whole of Johnson's gang with the exception of two men, made their escape. The two men taken were asleep. There was found in the house, belonging to John Farrow, on Grindstone Island, a quantity of arms—pistols, rifles, and muskets. The names of the prisoners taken are Riley Toucy and Jonathan Turncliffe. Those who made their escape were William Johnson, John Farrow, Robert Smith, William Robbins, John Van Clute, and Allen Early. They were fired on, but with what effect is not known. A fier a thorough search by the whole party, consisting of 80 men, they were not enabled to discern what had become of the fugitives.

The following is from the Detroit Advertiser of June 30.

THE ST. CLAIR BUCCANERS ROUTED.—We learn from the collector of this port, that a schooner in the service of the buccaners was captured on Thursday, some few miles below the county seat of St. Clair. Having understood, from the movement in that vicinity, that an expedition was on foot, the collector immediately started for the scene of operations. A small force embarked on the steamboat Gratiot, and soon got wind of the piratical craft, which, it seems, had been across to the Canada shore, and committed depredations upon the inhabitants.

As the Gratiot approached the vessel with the view to compel her to surrender, a brisk firing upon her commenced from the opposite shore. Finding themselves in peril, the crew of the vessel took to the shore, and dispersed themselves through the woods. The vessel was then taken possession of by the revenue officers.

They found two or three Canadian prisoners in the hold, some fifteen barrels of flour which had been plundered, about a dozen stand of arms, and other small matters. The vessel was brought to this port to be condemned. One of the prisoners, we understand, was induced to come down, by whom it is thought some important testimony may be laid before the grand jury now in session.

We are advised that most, if not all, the crew were Canadians. This promptness on the part of the officers and citizens of St. Clair, will, it is confidently hoped, crush another of those incipient piratical expeditions which have from time to time annoyed our frontier.

The Rochester Democrat, in a postscript copied from a Tennessee paper of the 30th ult. gives a rumour of another frightful steam boat accident in that State. The Knoxville, laden with Cherokee Indians, in descending the Tennessee River, collapsed her boiler, when five hundred of that miserable and much abused people lost their lives.

The absorbing theme of conversation during the week, in our own Province, has been the movements of our respected Governor General. He arrived at Kingston, and was received with much distinction on Wednesday the 11th—and proceeded on the following day to Niagara, where he arrived at an early hour, and went on without delay to the Falls.—His reception at Toronto, when he landed on Wednesday last about 5 P. M., is stated to have been most enthusiastic, and to have conveyed from the assembled thousands an earnest of the confidence reposed in the Representative of our beloved Queen. Several addresses were received and replied to; and after a levee at Government House on Thursday, his Lordship left that city about 4 o'clock for Lower Canada.

MARRIED.

On Monday 9th, July in Cobourg by Rev. A. N. Bethune, Mary Ann, eldest daughter of William Walker, Auctioneer to Mr. John Braden, of Baltimore; both formerly of the County of Cavan, Ireland.

DIED.

At the residence of Henry Nelles Esqr., Grimsby, on the 8th instant, in his 23d year, Mr. Thomas Butler Crooks, son of the late William Crooks Esq.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

C. Q. and E. V. N. in our next; and the report of the London Sunday School.

The "English Emigrant's Lament" in an early number.

LETTERS received during the week, ending Friday, July 20th:—

Rev. B. Lindsay, add. subs. and rem. in full for 6 mo. of vol. 2;—Rev. R. Rolph;—Rev. W. Brethour, add. sub. and rem;—Rev. M. Harris, add. subs. and rem;—Rev. J. Shortt, add. subs. and rem;—P. M. Parth;—P. M. Thornehill;—T. Fidler Esq;—M. C. Crombie, add. subs. and rem;—Mr. John Wright;—Mr. Robt. Maxwell; Rev. J. Grier, with enclosure;—Hon. J. Kirby, sub. in full for vol. 2;—T. G. Anderson Esq. do. do.;—Rev. A. Palmer, rem;—Lord Bishop of Montreal, (2);—J. Kent Esq. with enclosure;—James Crooks Jun. Esq;—T. S. Shortt, Esq; Rev. W. Macaulay;—Rev. G. Archbold, add. subs. and rem.