

In addition to the lands already mentioned, Your Petitioners observe that there are about 3000 acres reserved in different sections of the Province for "Educational purposes;" but your Petitioners cannot ascertain under whose direction and controul these lands are, or how they can be made available for their intended purposes; questions of paramount importance, and which among others it is the object of your Petitioners, to bring directly to the notice of your Honble. House; in order that an immediate investigation may be made on the subject.

And Your Petitioners are induced to believe that those reserved lands, would have been of much greater extent, had it not been for some recent grants to Church Corporations, embracing lots originally specifically reserved for schools.

This Your Petitioners conceive, should be enquired into, for the Church of England might well afford to relinquish a few lots, seeing that upwards of 36,000 acres of the public land have been granted to her corporations in this Province. Of this quantity the proportion of 19,000 was granted in 1836 and 1837—whereby it appears that the beneficence and generosity of the late government, were displayed in an extraordinary manner, during the memorable Civil List Bill struggle.

Your Petitioners conceive, that the opposition which has been heretofore shown, to a comparatively trifling grant in aid of a Dissenting Institution of learning, has come with a very bad grace from those who profess to belong to the establishment so called, which has 36,000 acres of the public lands for Ecclesiastical purposes—11,000 acres and an annuity of £2,700 for the support of two Educational Institutions, wholly under its controul and management.

In view of which facts, your Petitioners have always thought, and do still think, that those sects who have not yet received like bounties, should at least receive from those revenues to which they so largely contribute, some legislative aid and encouragement, in their laudable endeavours to diffuse a general Education more widely among the youth of the Province;—and as your Petitioners are determined to persevere, until some satisfactory arrangements are made, for the equitable and fair distribution of those means afforded for the support and advancement of useful knowledge among all classes in the Province—without respect to their religious creeds and tenets;

They humbly and respectfully pray, your Honourable House to take these important premises into your most favourable consideration,—to cause immediate enquiry to be made, into the extent and situation of the School Lands, and what proportion of them has been recently granted to Church Corporations—to adopt some judicious regulations whereby those reserves may be made generally available for their intended purposes, and to make from time to time such pecuniary appropriations, for the encouragement of Educational Institutions, as may be satisfactorily and usefully conducted;—and that no sect or denomination, may be proscribed as unworthy of a fair participation in the public bounty.

And Your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.