

REMARKS IN REPLY TO No. 2.

• The correctness of Mr. Grant's statements, in this part of his evidence, as far as Upper Canada is concerned, will appear from the fact that *two* of the district schools in that Province out of ten are held at this moment by ministers of the Church of Scotland, and only one by a clergyman of the Church of England. These several appointments have been enjoyed for a considerable time by the same parties who now hold them.

With reference to Lower Canada, Mr. Grant has laboured under information completely and essentially erroneous respecting the exclusion of the Roman Catholic Clergy from the Royal Institution. But that body having thoroughly cleared up the impression which had been propagated respecting their constitution, actual composition and management of the charge entrusted to them, in an unanswerable representation recently addressed to His Excellency the Administrator of the Government of Lower Canada, and since laid before the public, it is unnecessary to do more than to furnish two short extracts from that document, which more immediately relate to the general subject of Mr. Grant's evidence:—

“The Members of the Board who happen to be Ecclesiastics of the Church of England, are far from wishing it to be understood that they can for one moment be indifferent to the rights and interests of the Protestant Religion or to those of their own immediate Communion, but they have uniformly felt that, as Members of the Royal Institution they act in a distinct capacity, and in the discharge of a trust imposing obligations with which their own particular views should no otherwise mix themselves than as it is imperative upon them to provide for regulating the religious part of Education, among those who profess an adherence to their own Church. And they call upon those who are suspicious of their designs to produce a single example in which they have deviated from these principles, or endeavoured to exert the smallest indirect or improper influence in the fulfilment of their public duty.”

“In the year 1824, they recommended to His Excellency's predecessor in the Government, the appointment of Mr. Norman McLeod, a Catechist of the Church of Scotland, to the charge of a school at Williamstown in the seignior of Beauharnois,—a charge which he still holds; and in the year 1827, they procured in a similar way Mr. G. W. Bruce, a minister of the Scotch Seceding Church, to be appointed to the school at New Longueuil, and Mr. Gardener Bartlett, a preacher of the Baptist persuasion, to a school in the township of Potton. In adverting to this part of the subject, the Board have mentioned the fact, as worthy of remark that no less than 16 petitions to the Legislature, praying that provision should be made for the continuance of the operations conducted by the Board, were recently sent down from the eastern townships, signed by 337* persons of all religious denominations, who concur in stating their entire satisfaction with the management of the schools, and their earnest desire that it may not pass into other hands.”

In conclusion of this whole subject it may be observed that it is proper to bear the circumstance in mind that there are in this Diocese, large tracts of country inhabited by Protestants, (such for example as the eastern townships of Lower Canada,) where the Church of Scotland has obtained no footing whatever, and has no prospect of obtaining any, but where there have been missions long established by the Church of England, and churches built, with some partial assistance, by the voluntary exertions of the people themselves. The whole number of Episcopal churches in the Diocese, is seventy-three exclusive of three or four chapels and several churches in progress or immediate contemplation. The churches connected with the Kirk of Scotland are believed scarcely to amount to a dozen.

* The signatures would have been very much more numerous, and there is reason to believe that the number of the petitions themselves would have been greater, had time been allowed; but a necessity existed for their being received by a certain day in Quebec.