

was at the time of that report one thousand nine hundred and fourteen.

*Methodist Congregations do not elect their own Pastors.*—The Wesleyan Missionary Society sends a certain number of ministers to the Province. The missionaries thus sent out, constitute the Conference of Lower Canada. The Conference assembles annually, and by that body is each clergyman assigned to the congregation, or district where he is to minister. That congregation, or district must receive the minister so appointed, however repugnant to their feelings. When the conference sees fit, they must surrender their pastor, however closely they may be attached to him. The people have no voice whatever in the selection or change of their pastors.

*Church of Scotland.*—The number of clergymen of this denomination in the Province is fourteen, according to a list published at the session of the Synod, 1834. For a long time it was claimed, that the Church of England, and the Church of Scotland were the only Protestant bodies in the Province, which had any legal existence, or rights. All classes of *Dissenting Clergymen*, as they were called, were forbidden to exercise the most ordinary pastoral functions, except preaching.

It was maintained in a legal decision given by the Honorable Judge Sewell, Chief Justice of Lower Canada, that no clergyman, except those of the Church of England and the Church of Scotland, had any right, even to baptize the members of their own congregation, or to perform the funeral service over the remains of their deceased members. So rigidly was the law interpreted, that until within a few years, no corpse could find admission to a Protestant burial ground, unless accompanied by a clergyman of the Church of England or the Church of Scotland.

By late acts of Parliament, ministers of all denominations who choose to make application, are clothed with equal rights.

*Presbyterians not connected with the Church of Scotland and Congregationalists.*—There are fifteen Clergymen attached to these denominations.

*Baptists.*—Only four Clergymen of this denomination are known to the writer.

Some other denominations, have one or two ministers each, but the greater part of the Protestant population of the Province, are not yet gathered into, any regularly organized congregation. A portion of them are thinly scattered through those parts of the province inhabited chiefly by Catholics. Another numerous division are sprinkled through the immense tracts of country, which are but partially rescued from the forest. The roads are so inferior, and the habitations of the Protestant settlers, so distant from each other, that any regular ecclesiastical organization, or any considerable assemblage for public worship, at any given place is nearly impracticable.