

CLERGY RESERVES IN CANADA.

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CANADA.

every reason to believe that they were received as such by Her Majesty's subjects generally in the province of Canada.

That though the share awarded, in terms of the said Act, to the Church of Scotland was not as much as the members of that church considered it entitled to receive, yet as the country had been long distracted with the subject, and a settlement of it was desirable for the public good, they acquiesced in the decision rather than that the agitation should be prolonged, to the manifest injury of the peace and prosperity of the colony.

That your Memorialists lament to perceive that by an address from the House of Assembly of this province, founded on a set of resolutions, one of which, involving the main principle, was carried only by a majority of two (and not sent to the Legislative Council), a large proportion of the members of which assembly are Roman Catholics, an attempt is made again to open up this question, and revive troubles and dissensions formerly experienced.

That the same House of Assembly has of late years almost unanimously granted Acts of Incorporation to numerous bodies of Roman Catholics, conferring upon them extensive privileges, and entitling them to hold fixed property to an enormous value.

That the object of the attempt now made is to dispossess the Church of Scotland and other religious bodies of any participation in the funds and lands specially set apart "for the maintenance of religion and the advancement of Christian knowledge within the said province of Canada," and thereby to withdraw from religion that support which it has hitherto received from this source.

That the evils which will result from the renewed discussion of this question are many and formidable affecting the tranquillity of the province, by exciting vehement agitation, and awakening the worst passions of rival parties, destroying all confidence in the security of rights granted by the beneficence of a pious monarch, and guaranteed by a British Act of Parliament, and, if the proposal now made be carried into effect, depriving many of the scattered settlements throughout the province of religious ordinances altogether, and leaving the religious instruction of a great proportion of the people (the surest bulwark of a nation) to men themselves ill-educated; for whatever may be said in favour of the voluntary system of religious support, from sad experience it is here most manifest that it would be utterly inadequate to the wants and circumstances of the country.

Wherefore your Memorialists, firmly persuaded of the magnitude of the evils to be apprehended, feel that they are no less bound by the claims of loyalty and citizenship than of fidelity in the administration of the trust reposed in them as commissioners to crave that your Lordship, in the legitimate exercise of your official functions, will advise Her Majesty, our beloved Sovereign the Queen, to decline to re-open this question, and leave the various religious bodies in possession of the advantage they now enjoy, accruing from the Clergy Reserves Fund, which, extending as they do to all religious denominations, can give no reasonable cause of offence to any.

And your Memorialists will ever pray.

SIR,

Montreal, January 6, 1851.

THE Commissioners of the Clergy Reserve Fund have adopted a Memorial to the Colonial Secretary, on the subject of the address passed last summer by the House of Assembly relative to the Reserves. This is now in course of signature, and will be ready for transmission in a few days.

I am not certain whether the proper course is to send such a document direct, or through the Governor-General, and will feel obliged if you will inform me.

There is also in preparation a series of petitions from all the congregations to the three branches of the Imperial Legislature, on the same subject, and I would be glad if you could inform me whether those to the Queen should be sent through the Governor-General. They will be about 70 in number, and rather bulky.

Your answer in course will oblige.

I have, &c.

Hon. James Leslie,
&c. &c.

HUGH ALLAN.

SIR,

Toronto, January 14, 1851.

I YESTERDAY received your letter of the 6th instant, stating that a Memorial was preparing to be sent to the Colonial Secretary, on the subject of the Address of the Assembly relative to the Clergy Reserves, as also petitions to Her Majesty and the two Houses of the Imperial Parliament, and desiring to be informed if those to the Queen and Earl Grey should be transmitted through the Governor-General.

With regard to petitions to Her Majesty, the regular course is, that they should be transmitted through the Queen's representative in the colony. As to the Memorial to the Colonial Secretary, I am not aware of the course necessary to adopt; but if not sent through the Governor, I have no doubt but it would be referred to him before any action was taken upon it by Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.

Hugh Allan, Esq.,
Montreal.

JAMES LESLIE.