

Report on the Petitions of Christians of

Question.	Names of Witnesses Examined.	ANSWERS.	Question.	Names of Witnesses Examined.	ANSWERS.
THIRTEENTH. Do you think that the Ecclesiastical chart now shewn to you, exhibits a fair and correct view of the different denominations of christians in this province? Can you point out any inaccuracies in the chart within your knowledge?	Rev. Egerton Ryerson.	<p>The same remark I believe to be true with regard to the baptist, roman catholic, and presbyterian clergymen.</p> <p>4thly.—The letter states, that “the methodist teachers are subject to the orders of the conference of the United States.” This is incorrect. The methodists have a conference in this province, and, to the orders of this conference the methodist teachers in Upper Canada are subject, and not to the conference of the United States.</p> <p>5thly.—The letter affirms that “in 58 places where regular or occasional service is performed, numerous and respectable congregations assemble.</p> <p>With several of the 58 places here referred to, and which are pointed out in the chart, I am personally acquainted, and I know that comparatively small congregations attend the church of England, perhaps from 10 to 50, while more than twice this number attend the ministrations of some other teachers in the same places; and from the information I have, which I believe to be correct, inasmuch as it has come well authenticated from various sources, I believe there are but two or three places in the province where the congregations of the church of England, are larger or as large as those of some other denominations; & to corroborate this opinion I would refer to Dr Strachan’s sermon above mentioned, in which it is said “even when churches are erected, the numbers who give regular attendance are so few as greatly to discourage the minister.” (P. 19.) and in (P. 26). “The benefits of the ecclesiastical establishment of England are little felt or known, and sectaries of all descriptions are increasing on every side.”</p> <p>6thly. The chart states that there is “a church building at Purdy’s Mills, and another at Newmarket, a church built in Markham and another at Etobicoke; all of which places are adjacent to York.”</p> <p>From my own personal knowledge I believe this to be incorrect. There was no church built or building in either of these places in 1827. Nor do I believe there is any now. I have likewise been informed by several persons who reside in those places, that there is no church built, or building at Navy Point, at Ancaster, at Barton, or at Woolwich. But of the places last mentioned I cannot speak from personal knowledge.</p> <p>7thly. The chart makes but 6 Presbyterian clergymen in this Province.</p> <p>I am informed by two presbyterian clergymen, Mr. Harris and Mr. McDowell, that there are 8 presbyterian clergymen in this province, besides those whose names are mentioned in the chart, viz:—Mr. Buchanan of Beckwith Mr. Boyd, of Prescott, Mr. Foot of Kingston, Mr. Fraser of Niagara, Mr. Bell of Streetsville, Mr. King of Nelson, Mr. Eastman of Grimsby, and Mr. Russel of Stamford.</p> <p>8thly. The chart states but 2 clergymen of the Kirk of Scotland in the province.</p> <p>I have been informed by several gentlemen, and by Mr. Morris’ letter addressed to W. Horton Esq. dated 6th October last, that there are 6 clergymen of the Kirk of Scotland in this Province, viz:—</p> <p>Mr. Urquhart of Cornwall, Mr. McLaurin of Lochiel, Mr. McKenzie of Williamstown, Mr. Connel of Martintown, Mr. Machar of Kingston, and Mr. Sheed of Ancaster.</p>	THIRTEENTH (Continued.)	Rev. Egerton Ryerson.	<p>9thly. The chart states “as the methodists have no settled clergymen, it has been found difficult to ascertain the number of itinerants employed, but it is presumed to be considerable, perhaps from 20 to 30 in the whole province.”</p> <p>This is incorrect, for the methodists have 71 local or settled clergymen, and 46 itinerants employed in the province, and as the methodists have annually, for more than 50 years, published minutes which contain the names, stations, and numbers of itinerants employed, together with the number of members belonging to the Methodist church, and as these minutes may be had of any itinerant in the province, it could not have been difficult to have ascertained the number of itinerants employed by the methodists.</p> <p>10thly. The chart states that “the other denominations have very few teachers, and these seemingly very ignorant.”</p> <p>According to a chart of the baptist church founded upon the authority of 2 baptist clergymen, there are 45 baptist clergymen in the province; with several of these I have conversed, and although they may be ignorant of political intrigues, they are as well acquainted with the truth, doctrine and duties of the bible, as the clergymen of the church of England.</p> <p>The Quakers, and Roman Catholics, I believe are separately more numerous than the church of England; but in regard to the qualifications of their teachers I cannot speak, as I am not personally acquainted with them.</p> <p>William Morris, Esq. M. P.</p> <p>I do not think it does. The chart is incorrect because it states the number of presbyterian clergy of the province far below the actual number, and because it does not shew that churches have been built by any denominations but that of the church of England. There are 6 ministers of the church of Scotland in this Province, viz:—the Rev. Mr. Urquhart, Cornwall, Rev. Mr. McLaurin, Lochiel, Rev. Mr. McKenzie, Williamstown, Rev. Mr. Connel, Martintown, Rev. Mr. Machar, Kingston, and Rev. Mr. Sheed, Ancaster.</p> <p>Robert Randall, Esquire, M. P.</p> <p>I think not. It does not exhibit the different denominations of christians in Upper Canada.</p> <p>Paul Peterson, Esq. M. P.</p> <p>It is inaccurate as to the number of clergymen of the methodist church, who are much more numerous than the chart represents. It is not difficult, but on the contrary very easy for any one who wishes it, to ascertain their number; as the minutes are published annually.</p> <p>J. A. Wilkinson, Esq. M. P.</p> <p>Not being acquainted out of the Western District, can only speak with reference to that district. Mr. Morley whose name is mentioned in the chart as stationed at an Indian village in the London District, is in fact at Chatham in the Western District, and there is a presbyterian clergyman, now residing at Sandwich, as teacher of the district school; at the time the chart was compiled he was at Amherstburgh in the same district.</p> <p>D. McDonald, Esq. M. P.</p> <p>Does not think it does. Thinks it a gross misrepresentation.</p> <p>Dr. Lefferty, M. P.</p> <p>Does not. There was no preaching at the Short Hills, of clergymen of the church of England. The churches at Fort Erie and Queenston were both built by other religious denominations; and it is alledged have been forced out of their hands. There are to his know-</p>