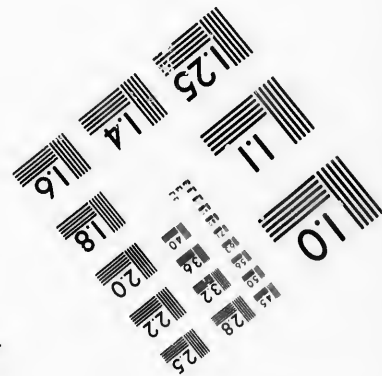
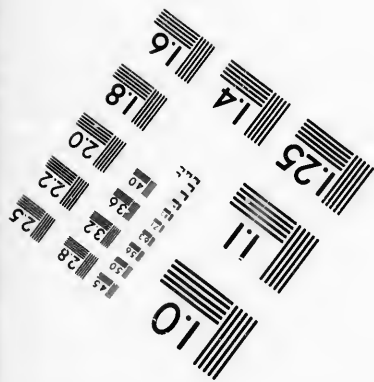
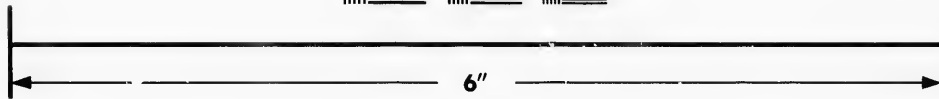
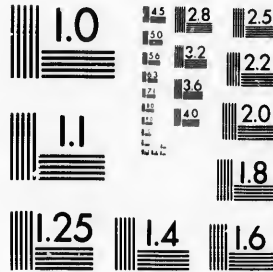


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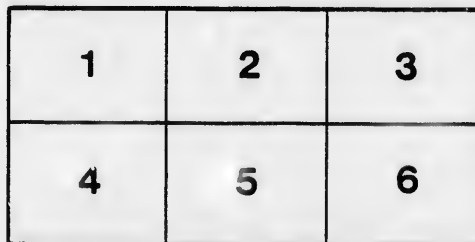
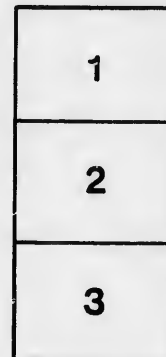
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*Education
Petition of Baptists
relating to King's
College 1823*

To the Honourable the House of Assembly,

In General Sessions convened.

The Humble Petition of the Undersigned Freeholders, and other inhabitants of New Brunswick.

Respectfully Sheweth.

That Your Petitioners deeply regret, the frequent unsuccessful applications of the Committee of the Baptist Education Society, to the Legislature of this Province, for pecuniary assistance towards defraying the expences incurred by them, in establishing and conducting a Seminary of Education at Fredericton.

That Your Petitioners are at a loss to ascertain the principle, whereon the repeated Grants of Your Honourable Body to that Institution, have been rejected by the Honourable Legislative Council, unless it be a principle of decided hostility, against all Educational Establishments, under the controul of any other Denomination, than that of the Episcopal Church. And if your Petitioners are right in this their conjecture, they would respectfully but firmly submit, that such a principle of action, is wide of those enlightened and just motives, which should ever influence the Councils of a young and thriving Colony, whose future successful progress must principally depend on the integrity and enterprize of its population, a vast and overwhelming majority of whom are without the pale of Episcopacy.

Indeed your Petitioners cannot understand why the middle Branch of the Legislature, should be so constructed as to be deaf to the importunities and blind to the wants of a large portion of the population, for whose welfare and good government, in common with all, that Honourable Body has been spoken into Legislative existence. And so frequent have been the rejection of the Grants of Your Honourable House by the Legislative Council—and so often have Petitions and Petitioners been treated with indifference by a majority of the members of that Honourable Body, that your Petitioners would have thought this their humble effort in vain, were they not satisfied with the justice of their application and assured of the ultimate triumph of those principles of justice, which should influence the deliberations of every branch of the government.

Your Honble. House is well aware, that large grants of land and money, have been made in this Province, for the support of Educational Institutions, professedly under the controul and direction of one religious denomination, and that not a Dominant Church, either by the Law of the Land or from its numerical strength—and in order that Your Petitioners, may not be misunderstood they would remind your Honourable House, of facts disclosed in the Journals.

King's College, an Institution avowedly of an episcopal constitution, has received from the Revenues of this Province, to which all denominations of Christians in the country have from time to time contributed, upwards of £40,000; and enjoys a settled annuity from those Revenues of £2200. About 6,000 acres of land have also been granted to this Institution in and near the Town of Fredericton, four and a half acres whereof in the centre of the Town are now producing upwards of £200 per annum.

The Madras School another Institution of the Church establishment, has not been forgotten in the distribution; as £500 per annum appears to be settled on the Governor and Trustees, besides the rents and profits of about 6,000 acres of land, granted to and reserved for its use.

Your Petitioners would observe, that repeated efforts have been made in vain, to liberalise those institutions by stripping them of their denominational character—and especially during the past winter with respect to King's College; and it is worthy of remark that the Charter Modification Bill, found a common grave in the Legislative Council, with the Assembly's appropriation in aid of the Baptist Seminary; the one was slain because it threatened to interfere with Episcopal supremacy, and the other because it appeared as a bounty to dissent from the Establishment.

*Baptist Petition &
Statements relating to King's
College*

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.

