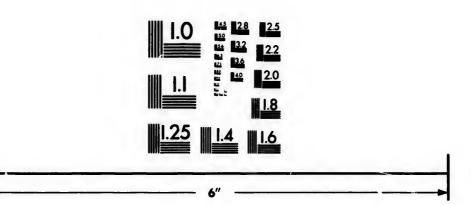


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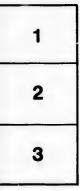
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# PASTORAL LETTER

TO THE

CLERGY OF THE DIOCESE OF TORONTO.

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# PASTORAL LETTER

TO THE

### CLERGY OF THE DIOCESE OF TORONTO.

(Private.)

REVEREND AND DEAR SIR,—I have much pleasure in acquainting you that the replies which I have received to my Circular of the 9th of October last, in reference to the commutation scheme, have been all but unanimous in its favor. The few dissentients (some five or six in number) will, I confidently believe, readily withdraw their objections and unite with myself, who am also a party interested, and with the rest of their brethren, so soon as the manifest advantages of the proposed arrangements are clearly set before them.

To the task of removing these objections, and stating these advantages as briefly as possible, I now address myself, and earnestly solicit a candid consideration of the momentous subject in which the interests of the Church in all future time are deeply and essentially involved.

After issuing the circular above referred to, no further proceedings could with propriety be taken until the Secularization Act became law; but since the consummation of that event, communications have been made to me by warm and disinterested friends of the Church, urging the necessity of prompt and immediate action, as it is impossible to foresee the difficulties which may arise should Parliament reassemble before we had availed ourselves of the opportunity of securing the remnant of the Church property, which the law at present, and only for a limited time, places within our reach. Accordingly the Church Society,—the only existing body legally capa-

ble of rendering us that service,—at its meeting on the 10th day of January last, passed a by-law, as a preliminary step, accepting the trust, till such time as the Synod shall be competent (by acquiring corporate power) to hold the same, when the Society will be ready to transfer the trust to that body.

The meeting of the Church Society was, happily, much more numerous than usual, being composed of twenty-seven Presbyters and twenty-two respectable and influential laymen.

The conclusions arrived at by such an assembly, comprising many of the ablest men in the community, as their names sufficiently testify, cannot fail to command the confidence of all concerned, more especially as it is known that many of them came to the meeting in great doubt as to the expediency of the measure about to be submitted to them, if not with feelings opposed to it; and yet, after a protracted and searching, but friendly, discussion, the decision in its favor was found to be unanimous.

This result will, however, surprise no one who will take the trouble of making himself acquainted with the prospective advantages which commutation offers to the Church, while it preserves intact the rights of the Clergy personally interested—advantages, surely, which no individual can feel himself at liberty to sacrifice or reject.

It may not be very easy to state all the arguments which were adduced on that occasion, and which availed to produce this unanimity; but to mention a few of these may not be unacceptable to those who were unable to attend the meeting, and yet are deeply interested in the question, and earnestly desirous to adopt the right course.

First. The Legislature has declared that it is desirable to remove all semblance of connection between Church and State, &c. &c. Now, whatever may be thought in a Christian country of this avowal, we may

at least console ourselves with the reflection that we are not responsible for the sentiments it expresses; yet, so far as its object bears on the public tranquillity of the colony, it appears to be the duty and wisdom of the Church carefully to consider in what way she may be able to coöperate with the Provincial Government in removing all just or even probable cause of renewed agitation, and with this view to declare through her Clergy her readiness to accept the commutation proposed, if it can be arranged on terms fair and equitable to all parties.

The fear of renewed agitation on the Clergy Reserves question is by no means groundless; on the contrary, it has already commenced, and from what has actually taken place since the passing of the Secularization Act, it is clear that the peace and harmony expected from the measure are not likely to be realized so long as the Church or any of her Ministers continue in dependence upon the Provincial Government. The very men who forced the measure on the administration, are become its enemies. They have discovered, or think they have discovered, that it is not quite so mischievous as they intended, and that they are in danger of losing one of the most fruitful sources of that clamor and dissension in which they have delighted to indulge. Hence they deem the Secularization Act as only a step in advance, and to be tolerated merely as a new and convenient fulcrum, whereby to strip the church of the last vestige of her property.

Such being the case, it is frightful to contemplate the number of years, which might be afforded to the factions to devise and mature plans of agitation, should the commutation, from any cause, fail to be adopted. For in reference to the ordinary calculation regarding the expectation of life from twenty-five to ninety years, it will be found, that the list of our annuitants would not be entirely exhausted in a space of sixty years. The number would no doubt become very few towards the

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be may end of that period--but some would still be alive. And can we suppose, that the rapid progress of infidel and democratic principles would suffer clerical annuitants or government church pensioners, as they would be called, to exist one-third of that time? Nearly one-half of the present stipendiaries would be alive twenty years hence, and in the course of that time, should a successful movement against them be accomplished, they would be left to drag out the remainder of their lives in poverty and neglect.

From these remarks it would appear that the Government, the Clergy and the Church at large are equally interested in carrying out the Commutation Scheme to a satisfactory conclusion. In this view the government should bear in mind, that the Church has been hardly dealt with, and should give effect to the fact, that in all annuity transactions, consideration is given to the profession of the applicants; and as the Clerical profession is most favorable to longevity, it has been the practice in all insurance offices to make a liberal allowance to Clergymen.

By the statute which secularizes the Clergy Reserves, the Church may take advantage of the provision of the Imperial Act, 16 Victoria, chap. 21, which guarantees to the incumbents their stipends and allowances during their natural lives and incumbencies; or the Church may, with the consent of the Colonial Government of Canada, adopt the commutation principle, and by careful management secure a large residue towards her permanence, without in the smallest degree intrenching upon or infringing the rights and privileges of the present incumbents.

A more cruel and insidious method to destroy the Church can scarcely be conceived than that which the first alternative presents. By its dark and treacherous operation it proposes to destroy or undermine every parish and mission in the Diocese. Under its working

the Church would be hourly dying out, one clergyman dropping here, and another there, and in the grave of each would be buried a stated proportion of the patrimony of the Church. Like the plague, it would proceed step by step to destroy, and finally to extinguish every vestige of her property; while, on the other hand, unlike that fell destroyer, its operation would be so gradual and imperceptible that little or no impression would be immediately visible, and consequently no general alarm felt or excitement produced.

No doubt many private efforts would be made to keep up the number of the clergy, to supply successors, and to maintain them, and even occasionally to open new missions; but there would be no general or simultaneous movement in the Church, because this miserable alternative contains a feature which tends to separate the clergy from the Laity, should it be unhappily preferred. Some of the clergy unfortunately think that to adopt or reject the offered Commutation is a matter of indifference;—but this is not the case, it is a question of vital and perilous For if the idea gets abroad that we responsibility. prefer sitting down as we are in the enjoyment of our emoluments, during our lives, rather than run any risk or make the slightest sacrifice to save the Church from perishing, we shall lose our natural influence with our people. They will become indignant at such apathy and selfishness, and condemn us, and not without cause, as guilty of disloyalty to the Church for declining to take the lead in forwarding a fair Commutation, and placing the Church in a more favourable position than she has ever enjoyed. And if in such a state of things the guarantee were assailed, we shall have no friend to protect us.

2. But what, it may be asked, is the true value of the guarantee afforded by the British Act 16 Victoria, chap. 21, upon which so much stress seems to be laid. It may be fairly granted that till lately such guarantees were held sacred. But how is it now? Is not this very Act, the 16 Victoria, chap. 21, a melancholy instance of the

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precariousness of all such pledges and guarantees against continued agitation and pressing cases of expediency? Was not the 3 & 4 Victoria, chap. 78, passed under the most solemn pledges and engagements, such as never perhaps attended any other act of Parliament; and has it not been superseded by a timid Government, yielding to the unprincipled agitation of a few selfish politicians, aided by a versatile press?

The same parties are again at work, nor will they desist while the Church has any connection with the Government, or retains any property which they can hope to take away.

All of us must feel, from what has lately taken place, that we can look for no check or interference from the Home Government, should our enemies repeal the guarantee to the present Incumbents—a measure which there is good authority for believing they will attempt, as soon as they are in power. Hence I consider the guarantee of little or no real value.

Moreover, this pledge or guarantee may disappear without the risk of attempting any positive enactment, and in a way that affords no remedy. The Fund may be exhausted by some such indirect methods as wasted the Clergy Reserves to less than half their value, and which was gradually brought about by private sales and convenient valuations.

After all, it may be justly asked "are the Clergy to run all the risk?" Were there any real risk it would no doubt be unreasonable to expect it without first explaining its nature and extent. But there is no risk whatever. The Commutation Scheme can only be adopted on the principle that the Incumbents be fully secured in the half-yearly payment of their stipends and allowances during their natural lives and Incumbencies, as heretofore.

The present annual expenditure of the Church may be taken at £21,500.

#### WAYS AND MEANS.

1st. It is confidently expected that the commutation money will form a capital that will yield on its investment at the very least par annum	£15000
2nd. Application has been made to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts for an annual grant during ten years of	3337
4th. The Sustentation Fund, which we are about to organize, may be taken at	1500
Balance in favor of the Church	£23037 1537
	£21500

This last item, the Sustentation Fund, may be greatly increased, as many are willing to contribute liberally should any one of these resources happen to come short of the expected amount, or should there be delay in arriving at it. But were all except the first (which never can fail) to fall below the estimate for the first two or three years, the managers have ample means to make up such deficiency and duly to replace the same in a short time, without detriment to the general fund. That much care and attention will be necessary on the part of the managers till matters are in good working order, and the income made equal to the expenditure, cannot be denied, but not more than are required in the management of all other kindred undertakings.

Such will be found a fair and candid statement of some of the grounds or reasons which united the fifty members who were present at the last meeting of the Church Society in approving with one voice the commutation scheme.

Nor is this all; there are other considerations of great weight in favour of its adoption.

First. It is offered by the Government in a friendly

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spirit, and will no doubt be carried out on as fair and honourable terms as the provisions of the statute will admit.

Second. Its adoption will be a great disappointment to our enemies, who will be no longer able to make use of the temporalities of the Church as a cause of dissension.

Third. The commutation separates us entirely from the Provincial Government; and till such separation take place it is clear from past experience that we can have no peace.

Fourth. This separation the Government most anxiously desires for its own sake, as well as ours, in order to put an end for ever to contention on Church matters in the colony.

Fifth. Were we to continue much longer dependants on the Government, as provided for in the 16th Victoria, cap. 21, we shall be felt to be a great drag on its energies, and a growing obstacle to public peace and order. Hence the Government would gradually become indifferent towards us; then cold; and, on a change of the administration, absolutely hostile—a result very dangerous and much to be deprecated.

In fine, under a fair management of the Commutation Fund the Church will not only be preserved in her present integrity, but her efficiency will be rapidly extended.

Nor will the readiness of the Clergy to give their indispensable and powerful assistance in securing these inestimable advantages fail to be duly appreciated, and to win for them the most precious of all boons, the lasting confidence and affection of their people.

I am, Reverend Sir, Your affectionate brother,

JOHN TORONTO.

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Toronto, Canada, 20th January 1855.

CHURCH SOCIETY, DIOCESE OF TORONTO.

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their these , and s, the A meeting of the Church Society, was held at the Society's Board Room, on Wednesday, the 10th inst.

Present—The Lord Bishop in the chair; the Revs. S. B. Ardagh, Dr. Beaven, D. E. Blake, E. Baldwin, Mich. Boomer, C. C. Brough, H. C. Cooper, B. Cronyn, W. S. Darling, J. G. Geddes, S. Givins, H. J. Grasett, Prof. Irving, Dr. Lett, J. W. Marsh, J. G. D. McKenzie, R. Mitchele, Dr. McMurray, F. L. Osler, H. B. Osler, Arthur Palmer, S. Ramsey, Alex. Sanson, R. Shanklin, Provost Whitaker, and the Secretary.

Messrs. Geo. W. Allan, J. Arnold, Dr. Bovell, Hon. H. J. Boulton, Hon. J. H. Cameron, John Crawford, Hon. P. B. DeBlaquiere, Henry DeBlaquiere, Edm. Deedes, Robt. Denison, C. Gamble, J. W. Gamble, W. Gamble, J. Hagarty, S. B. Harman, Sheriff Jarvis, W. Marsh, H. Mortimer, Sir J. B. Robinson, T. P. Robarts, H. Rowsell, Wm. M. Westmacott.

The following resolutions were adopted:

Resolved, That the by-law and indenture, proposed by the Hon. J. H. Cameron, be adopted by this society. Carried unanimously.

Resolved, That the Secretary be authorised to affix the seal of the society to the covenants to be entered into with the clergymen commuting their salaries from the Clergy Reserves Fund, as the same may from time to time be signed by them.

On the recommendation of the Lord Bishop, it was unanimously

Resolved, That as the Hon. J. H. Cameron has shown so great an interest in the arrangement of the Clergy Commutation, it be suggested to the Clergy that he be named by them individually, in each power of attorney,

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to receive the commutation money and arrange the terms of commutation with the government.

At the close of the meeting, the Rev. Rural Dean Palmer, seconded by the Hon. Sir John B. Robinson, moved that this meeting gratefully acknowledges the exertions and zeal of the Hon. J. H. Cameron, on all occasions where the interests of the church have been concerned, but more particularly at this crisis.

The following gentlemen were elected Trustees of the "Clergy Trust Fund."

## The Lord Bishop of the Diocese.

The Ven. Archdeacon of York, The Hon. P. B. DeBlaquiere, The Rev. Rural Dean Cronyn, Sir John B. Robinson, The Rev. Rural Dean Blake, Hon. J. H. Cameron, The Rev. Rural Dean Fuller, J. W. Gamble, Esq. The Rev. Rural Dean Givins, L. Lawrason, Esq. The Rev. Rural Dean Osler, T. Askew, Esq. The Rev. Rural Dean Patton, George Crawford, Esq. The Rev. Rural Dean Palmer, G. W. Allan, Esq. The Rev. Wm. McMurray, H. C. Baker, Esq.

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