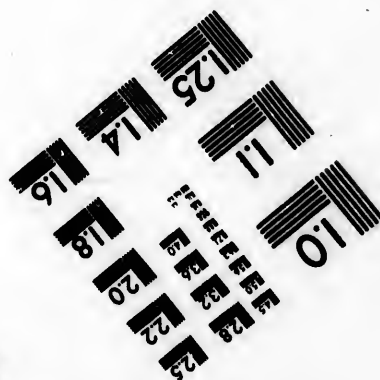
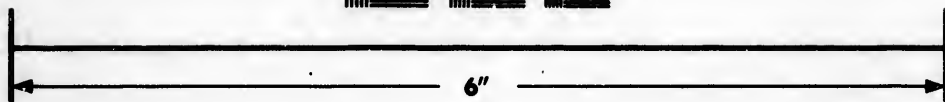
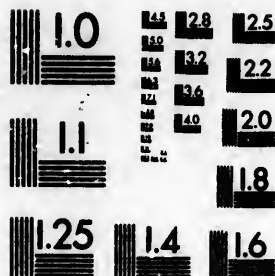


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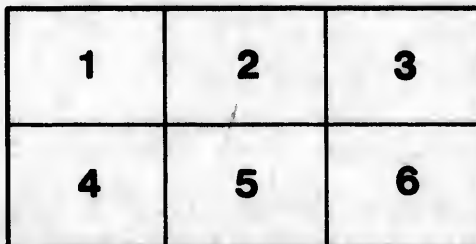
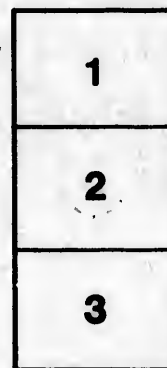
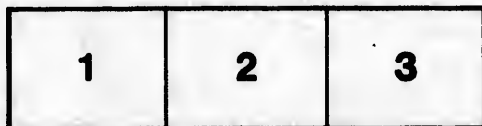
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CIRCULAR.

Southampton, March 18, 1836.

REVEREND SIR,

HAVING felt a desire that the tenor and the results of those representations which I have been engaged in making to His Majesty's Government, with reference to the Ecclesiastical affairs of Canada, should be made known to my brethren of the Clergy in the Lower Province, with whom (contrary to the intentions with which I left Quebec) I am thus placed in a new relation; and, having received an intimation from sufficient authority, that I may consider myself at liberty to communicate to them, in the manner here adopted, my correspondence with the Colonial Department of His Majesty's Government upon the subject in question, I have availed myself of that mode, as the readiest and most satisfactory in which my object can be effected: and I venture to extend the discretion thus given me, to supply the same information to some private friends.

It is superfluous, perhaps, that I should guard against its being inferred from this circumstance, that the correspondence could be allowed to appear

in the newspapers, or in any way get abroad before the public—a proceeding which would be *most decidedly unwarrantable and improper*.

It may not be inexpedient here to explain that the Bishopric of Montreal does not form an independent See. It is, in fact, a mere titular distinction attached to my office, which office is so constituted as to enable the Bishop of Quebec to delegate to me the episcopal charge in that portion of his Diocese, of the labours of which he desires to be relieved.

I reserve for some other occasion all expression of the motives, the feelings, and the views for the future, with which I have accepted this office; and shall only now add my request for your prayers, and my assurance that I remain

Your affectionate brother,

G. J. MONTREAL.

CORRESPONDENCE
OF
ARCHDEACON MOUNTAIN

WITH THE
COLONIAL DEPARTMENT OF HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT.

London, October 21, 1835.

MY LORD,

THE Bishop of Quebec having confided to me the task of laying before His Majesty's Government at home, some representations in behalf of the Church in Canada, as well as of endeavouring to effect certain arrangements, which have been for some time past under consideration in order to his own personal relief in his extensive charge, I have to solicit the favorable attention of your Lordship to what I proceed to submit in relation to these two objects.

It is now forty-two years, my Lord, since a Bishop of the Church of England was first sent out to Canada to take possession of the then newly erected See, in connection with which measure, the lands commonly called the Clergy-Reserves, had been set apart two years before, for the support of

the Clergy of whom the Bishop was to be the head. I need not say to your Lordship that the measure has been also followed up by a series of acts on the part of Government, in perfect consistency with the intentions thus indicated: a Cathedral Church has been built: Parishes have been constituted: Archdeaconries have been erected: and the Clergy in either Province have been formed into a Corporation for the management of the Reserved Lands.

The progress of the Church in the Canadas has abundantly justified whatever provisions have been made towards its establishment. The evil in Canada is not the excess, but the utter insufficiency of such provisions. Whatever future return may be calculated upon from the Clergy-Reserves, (presuming them to continue available for the object to which they were originally appropriated,) the spiritual wants of the Church of England population, are so far beyond the means of at once supplying them from this or any other as yet accessible resource, as to create a strong necessity for at least allaying the sense of those wants by some distinct and determinate proceeding for the endowment of the Church.

I venture, therefore, most respectfully to urge upon the attention of your Lordship the importance of bringing to an issue the long pending questions respecting the Reserves; and of either causing the management and application of the revenues arising from them, to be put in such train as to secure some tangible maintenance to the establishment, or substituting in some other permanent form, a fair equivalent for this appropriation.

I forbear ^{from} troubling your Lordship with a minute detail of those circumstances which may be stated

in support of what I have above advanced; but I may venture to mention some leading arguments of which the force cannot, as I humbly conceive, be denied; as, for example, that the Protestant population of the two Canadas has for several years past been gaining in rapid progression upon the Roman Catholic; that the emigration to Upper Canada was found not long ago to have doubled the population of that Province, I believe in the space of eight years; that a very great proportion of the persons emigrating are attached members of the Church of England; that in Lower Canada the Church of England, according to the Census taken in 1831, numbered among her disciples, I think very nearly one-half of the whole Protestant population of the Province and would, as I well know from long official experience, have numbered many more, had she possessed the means of establishing more Ministers or even had she been authorized to hold a more decided language with respect to her prospect of enlarged future support; that in the City of Quebec, since I myself assumed the charge of the Rectory in 1817, the number of places of worship of the Church of England has increased from one to five, and although some of these are but small, yet in three of them it has recently been necessary to augment the accommodation for the hearers; that as it respects the new settlements, rising up one after another, the Ecclesiastical Authorities are exposed to constant solicitations for ministerial services which they are unable to supply, and which the circumstances of the country render it impossible that the people should themselves provide; that thus the appalling prospect is opened of a population destined to spread over an immense surface of country, and still thickening from year to year, without having been formed to

habits of Religion, or supplied in the present important stage of their progress, with the means of transmitting to their descendants the faith and worship which they have received from their fathers.

I hope I may be pardoned, my Lord, if I here very briefly notice an argument which has been often used to the prejudice of those interests for which I am pleading,—namely that the Episcopal Church is seen to flourish in the United States of America, without having the advantages of an establishment. It will be found, my Lord, in the first place, that where the flourishing condition of that Church is particularly conspicuous, which is in the City and Diocese of New York, it is mainly attributable under Divine Providence, to her having retained the endowments which proceeded from the royal munificence of England; and it is known to myself that some of her most eminent living Bishops have lamented her struggling condition, and unfavorable prospects in other quarters, from her entire dependence upon the system of voluntary support. In more than one instance, indeed, within the last few years, her Bishops have appeared in this country in the character of itinerant solicitors for aid to uphold the Church in their own.

The provision made for the Church of England in Canada, by the 31. Geo. III. c. 31., is not one which can press upon any class of His Majesty's subjects, or bring the Clergy into collision with their Parishioners, or others, in the exaction of dues. With reference to the Roman Catholic population of Lower Canada, who constitute a religious body far surpassing in point of numbers, any other in the two Provinces, it cannot be supposed that an adherence on the part of His

Majesty's Government to the original intention respecting the Reserves, would be an unpopular measure, while tithes and other endowments are secured by law to the Roman Catholic Church itself, and its Clergy are also permitted to dispose of large revenues, the legal title to which is (believed to be) in the Crown: On the contrary it could not but infuse into that body a feeling of alarm even for their unquestioned means of maintaining their Church in the country, were they to witness the unconditional alienation of the property assigned to the support of the Protestant Establishment. They would naturally regard any such measure of interference with the vested interests of one Church, as but a step towards the spoliation of the other; and I have myself seen, and can produce an expression of this very sentiment in a Canadian paper conducted in the French language, which has an extensive circulation.*

Whatever, therefore, may be the purpose of His Majesty's Government with respect to the Clergy Reserves, I would humbly trust that in the event of their being diverted from their original object, the Church will be assured of receiving an equivalent in substitution for them; but should any project of this nature be in contemplation, I would hope that an opportunity will be afforded to the Clergy Reserve Corporations of the two Provinces, to submit to your Lordship their views of the arrangements, which in that case will be necessary. I have reason to know that as far as Lower Canada is concerned, the outline of a plan of this nature, is under the consideration of the Board, with a view to communications to be made at home.

* Gazette de Quebec, 16th June, 1835.

With reference to the other subject which I am charged to bring under the notice of your Lordship, I have only to renew those applications which have been received by yourself, and your predecessors in office, from the Bishop of Quebec;—strengthened as they now are by the broken and precarious state of his Lordship's health, since an alarming attack which he suffered in April last. His labours in the charge of a Diocese 1300 miles in length, in some parts not to be traversed without hardships and fatigue; his extreme devotedness in the performance of those labours, and his anxiety in conducting and closely watching the affairs of a Church composed in a great measure of newly formed and still increasing establishments, with a discouraging poverty of means at his command, are things which have unquestionably contributed to these inroads upon his constitution; and if the extent of his duties was felt to be disproportioned before to his powers, it has now (according to his own just estimate of episcopal duty) become impracticable to him without relief.

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I persuade myself therefore, that His Majesty's Government, alike upon public and personal ~~goods~~, will see the necessity of acceding to his desire that a Suffragan* Bishop should be appointed to assist him; and I have reason to know that the harassing anxiety which he experiences upon this subject, renders it particularly desirable in the present state of his health, that the arrangement should take effect with the least possible delay. It is proposed that the Suffragan should have charge of the Lower Province, and should receive a salary of £1000 sterling, per annum, to be assigned over to him from the salary of the Bishop himself;

* This term has not been employed in the appointment ultimately made: but the effect proposed is equally attained.

and it is, I presume, to be understood that the appointment to this Office would carry with it the promise of succeeding to the See.

Your Lordship may possibly be aware that the Bishop of Quebec from the time of his first application to Government upon this subject, had done me the honor to designate me as the person to whom, in consequence of my experience in the Diocese, he desired to confide the proposed share of his own labours. This appointment however, I have latterly, (for reasons which it is unnecessary to obtrude upon your Lordship,) signified my wish to decline; and I have a discretion from the Bishop to make whatever satisfactory arrangement upon the subject I can be instrumental in carrying into effect. Should it be the pleasure of His Majesty's Government to divide the Diocese at once, (as expressly provided for in the Letters Patent appointing the present Bishop,) this plan would unquestionably be preferable to any other; but I would venture to suggest the expediency, in that case, of imposing upon the new Bishop during the life of Dr. Stewart, the duty of assisting him in the Upper Province, to whatever extent might be required.

I have the honor to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient humble Servant,

G. J. MOUNTAIN,

Archdeacon of Quebec.

The Right Honorable

The Lord Glenelg.

&c. &c. &c.

Downing Street, November 10, 1835.

SIR,

I am directed by Lord Glenelg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st ultimo, bringing under his Lordship's notice the present state and the prospects of the Church of England in Canada, more especially with reference to the subject of the Clergy Reserves.

Lord Glenelg feels that it is unnecessary to assure you of the interest which he takes in the welfare of the Church of England in Canada, and he has accordingly given the fullest consideration to the observations which you have addressed to him.

The question is indeed one which had previously occupied much of his attention, but as it is necessarily involved in the enquiries which are to be prosecuted by the Commissioners now in Canada, his Lordship regrets that it is impossible for him at the present moment to communicate to you any definitive answer upon the subject.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

GEORGE GREY.

The Venerable Archdeacon Mountain,

&c., &c., &c.,

Southampton, November 17, 1836.

MY LORD,

I have the honor to acknowledge a letter from Sir George Grey, written by desire of your Lordship, on the 10th of the present month, in answer

to my representations of the claims of the Church in Canada, and the urgent need experienced by the Bishop of Quebec, of assistance in the labours of his Diocese.

Your Lordship having been pleased to inform me that the questions affecting the Church Establishment in Canada, and especially as it regards the Clergy-Reserves, must be decided, upon the Report of the Royal Commissioners who have been sent to that country, I have only, with all respect, to express, on behalf of those interests which I have been deputed to represent, my most earnest hope that the instructions conveyed by His Majesty's Government to the Commissioners, will direct their attention to the subject in all the serious, and I surely may be allowed to say, the sacred importance which belongs to it—involving as it does, not only the security of those pledges given to the Church, the maintenance of which, as I humbly conceive, is a matter wholly independent of any adjustment of political differences,—but the present and future provision for the religious wants of a rapidly increasing population, who, without such provision, have prospects before them, such as it is afflicting to contemplate.

The disposal, however, of the question which concerns the Church-Establishment at large, being thus left contingent upon the Report of the Commissioners, and the Bishop having the advantage of communication with them upon the spot,* the Church ought to repose in the confidence that the issue will be favorable to her claims, and to reserve all further plea addressed to the Home Government, till a necessity for it shall appear.

I pass, therefore, under permission from your Lordship, to the other point to which I was

* The writer was himself in communication, by letter, with the Bishop.

charged to solicit your attention; and beg to renew my application for the appointment of a Suffragan Bishop in the Diocese of Quebec, upon the footing stated in my former letter. Whatever may be the ultimate character of the more general ecclesiastical arrangements in the Canadas, the necessity for this particular measure (which carries with it no expence to His Majesty's Government, and, as I have been given to understand, is not conceived by Government to envelop any objection) has, I trust, been made sufficiently apparent; and I have received letters from the Bishop of Quebec expressive of his anxiety to be speedily informed, that provision is made for his relief. I take the liberty of adding, that there are reasons which render it particularly desirable that time should be afforded to put all matters connected with this arrangement in satisfactory train, before I am myself obliged to leave this Country.

I have the honor to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient humble Servant,

G. J. MOUNTAIN,

Archdeacon of Quebec.

The Right Honorable

The Lord Glenelg.

&c. &c. &c.

Downing Street, December 26, 1835.

SIR,

I have the honor to inform you that I have devoted much attention to the representations, made in your letters of the 21st of October, and

17th ultimo, on the subject of the appointment of a Suffragan to the Bishop of Quebec, for the purpose of assisting his Lordship in the discharge of the laborious duties attached to his extensive See.

I need scarcely assure you, that in the consideration of this question, I have been most anxious to give effect to the wishes and the recommendations of the Bishop of Quebec. The subject was first brought under my notice, soon after I received the Seals of this department; but as the scheme at that time proposed, assumed that a permanent endowment would be made for the Suffragan Bishop from the Clergy Reserves, and from the casual and territorial Revenue of Upper Canada, I found myself compelled, however reluctantly, to decline acceding to it. The considerations which have been latterly urged by you, both in writing and personally, have induced me to resume the subject; and I proceed to inform you of the only terms upon which it appears to me practicable to afford to the Bishop of Quebec, the assistance which he requires.

You are aware of the pledge which was some time since given to Parliament, to discontinue the annual vote towards the maintenance of the Clergy in North America, whenever the tenure of the present holders of Clerical appointments should expire. To that pledge His Majesty's Government feel it incumbent upon them strictly to adhere, and no change can be contemplated, either in the amount of the provision for the Clergy of the Church of England in North America, or in the duration of that provision. It appears to me, therefore, that the only mode in which I can give my aid to the attainment of the object in view, is by sanctioning the appointment

as Suffragan to the Bishop of Quebec, of some Clergyman who may be willing to undertake the office, without any addition at the charge of the public, to the income to which he may be at present entitled. I can hold out no secular inducement to any one, to assume the labour and responsibility necessarily attached to such an office. I am aware that when it was proposed to me that a Suffragan Bishop should be appointed, with a permanent Salary, you expressed an unwillingness to accept the appointment, although the Bishop of Quebec was most desirous that you should be selected for this station. Sensible, however, as I am of the disinterested anxiety which you have evinced, to promote the welfare of the Church in Canada, I am encouraged to hope that under the circumstances which I have stated, you will not refuse your personal assistance towards carrying into effect the arrangement in question. If upon consideration you should feel yourself able to accede to this proposal, I shall have much pleasure, with the concurrence of the Archbishop of Canterbury, in sanctioning your appointment, and in submitting your name to His Majesty as Suffragan Bishop of Quebec. I cannot doubt that much benefit will accrue to the interests of religion in North America, from the zealous and efficient discharge of the duties which will devolve upon you in that character; and in addition to this consideration, it will afford me great satisfaction to have been enabled in any way to meet the wishes of the present Bishop of Quebec, whose active and indefatigable devotedness to his laborious office, during many years, entitles him to every consideration on the part of His Majesty's Government. I am not forgetful of the disinterested offer which has been made by the Bishop, to

give up a considerable portion of his income as a provision for a Suffragan; but I do not feel that this is an arrangement to which the official sanction of His Majesty's Government is necessary, and I therefore abstain from considering it as in any degree essential to the adoption of the proposed scheme.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

GLENELG.

The Venerable Archdeacon Mountain,

&c. &c. &c.

Fulham Vicarage, December 28, 1835.

MY LORD,

I have the honor to acknowledge your Lordship's letter of the 26th of the present month, in which you are pleased to signify to me, in answer to representations addressed to your Lordship by myself, the views and intentions of His Majesty's Government in relation to the Church of England in Canada, and to propose to my own acceptance the appointment of Suffragan Bishop in the Diocese of Quebec.

For the honor which you have thus done me, and for the terms in which you have been so good as to convey the offer, I am bound to render my best acknowledgments to your Lordship; and as the conditions stated by your Lordship are such, as almost to preclude the hope of finding any other person who could afford to assume that office, while the emoluments attached to my ecclesiastical duties in the Colony, will enable me, though not without some sacrifice of prudential considerations,

to undertake it, I am induced, with the approbation of His Grace of Canterbury, to whom I have communicated your Lordship's letter, to avail myself of the confidence which you are pleased to repose in my qualifications, and to close with the projected arrangement.

I am very sure, however, that your Lordship will pardon me, if I respectfully request that my acceptance of this office may not be understood to carry with it the acquiescence of my own mind, in the decision to which His Majesty's Government have come respecting the provision to be made for the support of the Ecclesiastical Establishment in Canada, nor construed as implying in whole or in part, an abandonment of what I conceive to be the claims of that Establishment, as I have already had the honor of representing them to your Lordship. Although the exigencies of the Church and the want of relief personally experienced by the excellent Bishop of Quebec, scarcely leave me a choice as to the course which I shall now adopt, I cannot but feel not only that my own efficiency will be unavoidably and most distressingly crippled, should I survive the Bishop and succeed to his entire charge, by the want of any income attached to the See, but that the discouraging changes with which the Church at large in Canada has, within the last few years, been threatened, are such as it is the imperative duty of the Clergy to seek to avert, by every means left in their power.*

Under the influence of these impressions, and referring to the notice of the Clergy-Reserves reported in the papers to have been taken in the speech of the Earl of Gosford, at the opening of the Session of the Provincial Parliament of Lower Canada, which has reached me since I last had the

* The writer is engaged in endeavours to effect whatever little may be hoped for from his single exertions, during the remainder of his stay in England.

honor of addressing your Lordship,—I venture to express my earnest hope that instructions may be sent to the Royal Commissioners in Canada, to take into consideration the statements submitted to your Lordship in my letter of the 21st of October ; and since the intervention of the local legislature is regarded as necessary in order to any measure which would prevent the alienation of those Reserves, or provide an equivalent for the party whom they were designed to benefit, I trust that it may not be deemed improper, that in making so vast a surrender, an attempt should be made to obtain some stipulation in favor of the Church.

Should I receive any encouragement from your Lordship upon this point, I am prepared to submit to you the outline of a plan for such a purpose ; which, however, if you should judge it more advisable, can be ~~forwarded~~ ^{sent} to the Commissioners by the Clergy Reserve Corporation of Lower Canada, upon their receiving directions from your Lordship to apply for it.*

I have the honor to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient humble Servant,

G. J. MOUNTAIN,

Archdeacon of Quebec.

The Right Honorable

The Lord Glenelg.

&c, &c., &c.

* This proposal was answered by an offer to forward any representations to be addressed directly by the writer to the Commissioners, which offer was declined upon the ground that the Bishop of Quebec was himself in communication with them upon the spot.

