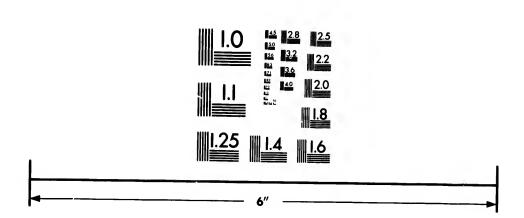


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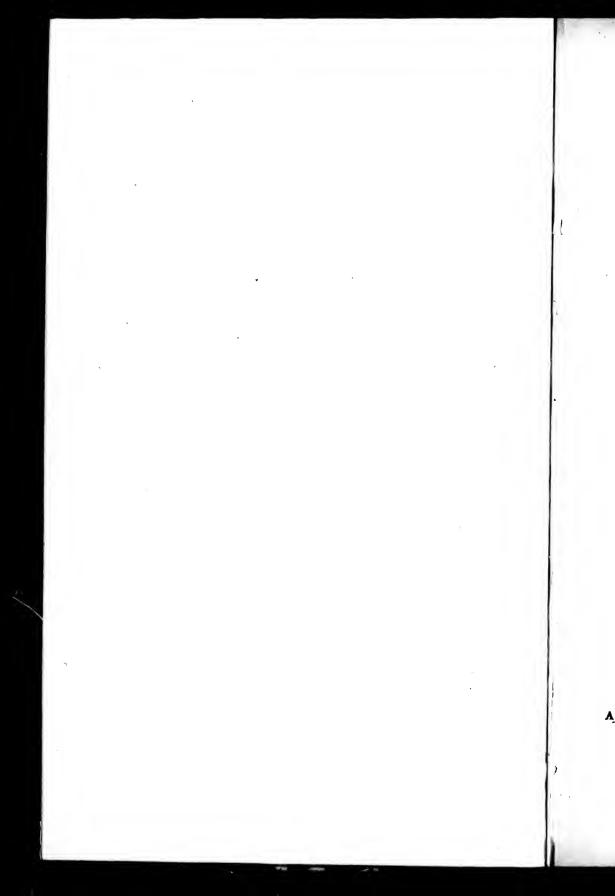
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CANADIAN CHURCH DESTITUTION.

REPRINT OF THE REPORT

MADE BY THE RIGHT REV.

THE LORD BISHOP OF MONTREAL,

TO THE

RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF DURHAM,

HER MAJESTY'S HIGH COMMISSIONER, &c. &c.

Dated November 20th, 1838,

UPON THE INSUFFICIENT STATE OF THE CHURCH IN THE

PROVINCES OF

UPPER AND LOWER CANADA.

FROM APPENDIX C. PAGE 57.

HEXHAM:

PRINTED BY EDWARD PRUDDAH,

AND PUBLISHED BY HATCHARD & SON, 187 PICCADILLY WHITTAKER & CO. AVE MARIA LANE, LONDON;
AND SOLD BY ALL BOOKSELLERS.

(Price 3d. each; or, 8s. per Hundred.)

ΑT

JOHN SOMERSET PAKINGTON, ESQ.

OF WESTWOOD PARK,

WORCESTERSHIRE,

M. P. FOR DROITWICH,

WHO NOBLY STOOD FORWARD, AS SOON AS HE WAS MADE AWARE OF THE

SPIRITUAL DESTITUTION,

OF THE

BRITISH EMIGRANTS IN THE CANADAS.

AND CALLED THE

ATTENTION OF PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNTRY,

TO THIS MOST IMPORTANT SUBJECT

THIS REPRINT

IS DEDICATED WITH EVERY FEELING OF RESPECT AND REGARD

BY

THE EDITOR.

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REPORT.

Marchmont, near Quebec, 20th November, 1838.

MY LORD.

In obedience to the signification of your Excellency's desire, I proceed to render a Report, for your information, of the state of the Church in this Diocese, as exhibited in the Visitation, which I completed by my return to Quebec on the 14th of the present month, after having been absent since the 6th of August.

The number of persons professing adherence to the Church of England in the Province of Upper Canada, is roughly stated at 150,000. I believe it is by no means accurately known, but measures are understood to be in contemplation for ascertaining it. The number of Clergy in the exercise of their ministry, including some whom I ordained during my visitation, is Seventy-three. The number of Churches built, or in progress towards their completion, is about Ninety.

These data, however, would give a very imperfect idea of the condition and the wants of the population, as it respects the means of Spiritual instruction, or, to speak more properly, could furnish no grounds whatever of forming a correct estimate upon the subject. The prodigious extent of country, the widely-scattered location of the inhabitants, and the state of the roads in the settlements of more recent formation, must, as will readily appear to the judgment of your Excellency, be all taken into the account; and it will be found, in point of fact, that a lamentable proportion of the Church of England population are destitute of any provision for their religious wants; another large proportion very insufficiently provided: and almost all the remainder served by a Clergy who can only meet the demands made upon them by strained efforts, which prejudice their usefulness in other points.

The object of this Report to your Excellency will, I presume, be sufficiently answered by the adduction of some particular examples in support of what I have just said. In travelling from the town of London to Goderich, I passed through a tract of country sixty miles in length, in which there is not one Clergyman or Minister of any denomination. I believe I am safe in saying, that the great majority of inhabitants, among whom are comprehended the Land Company's settlers, are of the Church of England; and the services of some of our Missionaries, who have partially visited this tract of country, have been thankfully received by those who pass under other names. Between Wodehouse upon Lake Erie, and St. Thomas, a distance of upwards of fifty miles, which may be travelled by two different roads, there is not one Clergyman upon either. From the reports made to me by one of our travelling Missionaries, and by a solitary Catechist stationed at Port Burwell, I know that there is a great body of Church people scattered through this part of the country. In the whole of the newly-erected district of Wellington, which is every where scattered over with a Church population, there is only one Clergyman of the Church. In the district of Newcastle there are six. I have good reason to know, that if ten more could be immediately added, there would be full employment for them, with regular congregations. In one or two of the districts there is a Missionary engaged in labours exclusively of an itinerant character; but how sparingly the Word and Ordinances of God are supplied, even to those among the unprovided settlements which are thus far favoured, your Excellency will have no difficulty in conceiving. The Clergy, however, except in the few comparatively large towns, are almost all more or less itinerants. I take one example almost at hazard from the returns officially made to me, to which I could produce many parallel instances; it is that of a Clergyman in the Bathurst district, a place noted at certain seasons for the excessive badness of the roads, who performs three full services every Sunday, distributing his labours in such a way in four different places, that once a fortnight he travels twenty-eight, and once a fortnight sixteen miles: besides which, he has in the winter months four week-day appointments for Divine service. Most of the Clergy have what they call out-stations, which they serve in this manner on week-days, to supply settlements which would otherwise be wholly destitute; and many of them make occasional visits during the year to places still more remote, objects they do not accomplish without many sacrifices, and much severe

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exertion; but the reward which they seek is not in the praise of men, and it is the value rather than the merit of their services to which I desire to solicit the attention of your Excellency. I do not speak here of those higher effects which constitute the ground and ultimate object of their ministry, but in proportion as means are taken for the extension of their influence, in such proportion, my Lord, I have no hesitation in saying—for the effect is every where sufficiently marked--that the loyalty, the good order, the steady habits, the peaceable and industrious deportment of the population will be promoted, and the ties strengthened which bind the Colony to the Parent State. Apart, also, from any consideration of preserving the supremacy of Britain over the Canadas, there is a sacred duty to be performed in laying such a foundation for the moral and religious character of the inhabitants in time to come as will best ensure their happiness and welfare; and it is not for me to point out to your Excellency that it is now that this foundation must be laid. In the young settlements now struggling into existence, or beginning to develop the signs of prosperous improvement, we see the germ of a great and important future, which must be vitally affected by the mould given to the population in this early stage of its formation. Millions who are yet unborn will have cause to bless or to reproach the present Government of Britain, for the measures taken to provide for them those advantages, and to transmit to them those habits, principles, and attachments, which form the only sure basis of national happiness.

Up to this period, although not a few people have been lost to the Church from the want of her ministrations, and a far more extensive defection must inevitably follow, if things are left much longer upon their present footing; yet, very generally, the privations which have been experienced in this respect have served to teach our congregations the full value of those privileges which are enjoyed at home. The importunate solicitations which I constantly receive from different quarters of the Province for the supply of Clerical services; the overflowing warmth of feeling with which the Travelling Missionaries of the Church are greeted in their visits to the destitute settlements; the marks of affection and respect towards my own office which I experienced throughout the Province; the exertions made by the people, in a great number of instances, to erect Churches even without any definite prespect of a minister, and the examples in which this has been done by individuals at their own private expense; the rapidly increasing circulation of the

religious Newspaper, which is called "The Church:" these are altogether unequivocal and striking evidences of the attachment to Church principles which pervades a great body of the population.

I would here beg leave to draw the attention of your Excellency to the bearing of these facts upon the question of supporting the Clergy in Canada, by the voluntary contributions of the people. Here is a deep sense of the value of religious services, and a strong manifestation of attachment to the Church. The moving principle, therefore, is not wanting; and if, with this advantage, the system cannot work successfully in Canada, it may be inferred that it cannot succeed there at all. am more deeply convinced than ever that such is the fact. In the few examples in which the experiment has been tried, it has rarely been otherwise than a failure, and in most cases it would be hopeless to attempt Even if the country were far more advanced, and the people had some command of money, I am persuaded that a faithful, respectable, and independent body of Clergy, sufficient for the wants even of that part of the population who already appreciate their labours, much more of that whom it is their duty to win to a care for religion, can never be provided by the operation of the voluntary system.*

Your Excellency, I doubt not, is alive to the necessity of bringing at last to an issue the long-protracted questions respecting the Clergy reserves, and putting an end to the painful and mischievous agitations which must continue so long as those questions are left open. I shall not presume to argue here the right of the Church of England to the exclusive benefit of that property, but I should be wanting in my duty to the Church, if I did not state my conviction of the existence of that right; at the same time that I think it but fair, that the Clergy of the Church of Scotland should look for some reasonable assistance from other resources at the disposal of the Government. Against all idea of an equality of footing between the two Churches, I cannot do otherwise than earnestly and solemnly protest. If upon the manifestation of a spirit of rivalry in India, on the part of the Church of Scotland, instructions (of which a copy is in my possession) were sent to the Governorgeneral, declaring the impracticability of placing the two Churches upon a level, I conceive that the case is much stronger in favour of the Church of England in Canada. The royal instructions having declared that Church alone to possess the character of an Establishment in the Colony; -- part of these same instructions having been cited in the Act 31,

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^{*} The Public should be aware that at the original Conquest of Canada, the

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dowment of the Church provided for "according to the Establishment of the Church of England;"-this Act having been immediately followed up by the erection of the see of Quebec, and the constitution of the Canadas as a diocese in the same connection with the archiepiscopal see of Canterbury as any diocese within the province of Canterbury in England;—the subsequent Acts of the Government in the establishment of a Cathedral at Quebec, the formation of certain parishes of the Church of England, the division of the diocese into archdeaconries, and the creation of corporations, consisting of the Church Clergy for the management of the reserves, having all been in harmony with the original purpose of the Crown, as stated above: I submit to the judgment of your Excellency, whether the guardians of the interests of the Church of England, in Canada, can conscientiously do otherwise than oppose themselves, by every means in their power, to an abandonment of her peculiar claims,—claims it is to be observed, of which the maintenance involves no burthen imposed for her benefit upon the members of other religious bodies, and no interference in any shape whatever with any but her own people. A declaration on the part of Government of the privileges assigned irrevocably to the Church of England, and an extension, at the

Roman Church was liberally tolerated, and left in possession of very considerable

Roman Church was liberally tolerated, and left in possession of very considerable property. At the same time it was distinctly understood in the British Parliament that the Establishment was to be the National Church of the Empire.

By subsequent Acts a considerable portion of Wild Land in each future Township was reserved, for the support and maintenance of this future Barrier against Romanism and Irreligion. These Reserves, if they had been gradually and properly applied, would have entirely precluded the possibility of the present Spiritual Destitution in the Provinces, by securing the growth of the National Church, in due proportion to the increase of the population, and would thus have afforded to the Protestant Colonists a Spiritual influence to counterbalance the advantages conceded to Rome, and have been a barrier for all minor christian distincafforded to the Protestant Colonists a Spiritual influence to counterbalance the advantages conceded to Rome, and have been a barrier for all minor christian distinctions against the domineering aggressions of that well endowed Hierarchy, whose principle was (under the French rule,) to exclude in toto from the Colony, every opinion which they were pleased to term "Heresy"—i. e. Protestantism.

At the same period, large tracts of Wild Land in each Township were also reserved to the Crown; probably with a view to facilitate improvements, and to afford encouragement in the Colony, without expense to the Mother State, or distress to an infant and poor population, in providing schools, teachers, &c. for themselves, at their own cost

themselves, at their own cost.

It was therefore wholly unnecessary, and as impolitic as unnecessary, (considering the indulgences granted to Romanism) to excite a contest between the Protestant Churches of the Empire, regarding the Church Reserve; or to rob and weaken the main bulwark, in order to provide for other parts of "the Christian Defences;" since these Crown Reserves afforded ample means of accomplishing the object, unless (as is not obscurely hinted at in the History of Massachusets Bay, to which Sir R. Peel compares another Bill) the covert object sought to be obtained by the conflict, was, to render both, atthe inefficient for the actual, and annually increasing, SPIRITUAL DUTIES OF A CHURCH, amongst a poor and widely dispersed Population, and ultimately to reduce both, under The Domination of the Roman See, a system more consonant to Despotic rule than either of the British Churches. (See Ezekiel xvii. 22.--24.

same time, of such just advantages to the Church of Scotland, as are compatible with the retention of those privileges by our own Establishment, would, in my humble judgment, be infinitely better calculated to heal the religious dissensions of the Colony than any temporizing course of policy, or any timid evasion of a question, which must at last be met in the face.

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I cannot forbear, my Lord from introducing some mention in this Report of the labours of our Clergy among the native India 3. are two Clergymen stationed among the Six Nations on the Grand River, one at the Mohawk Village, and the other at Tuscarora. Missionary has been sent to the Manitoulin Islands, and another to the Sault St. Marie, at the upper extremity of Lake Huron. These four are engaged exclusively in the charge of Indians. There are two other Clergymen, who combine this charge with that of congregations of whites; one in the Bay of Quinté, where a branch of the Mohawk tribe is established, and one who resides in Caradoc, and devotes part of his time to the Mounsees and Bear Creek Chippawas in his neighbourhood. I have never seen more orderly and, to all appearance devout worshippers than among some of these Indian congregations which I visited; and I have the fullest reason to believe that the ministry of the Clergy among them has been attended with very happy His Excellency Sir George Arthur is much interested in their welfare; and whatever the Government can do for their Religious improvement, their temporal comfort, or the education of their children, will, I am persuaded, be well and wisely expended. A great and promising field is here open to Christian philanthropy. A long debt is due to the Indians from the inhabitants of European descent, and it is by means such as those which I have just stated, that the reparation must They have been uniformly loyal. The Mohawks preserve to this day, with much veneration, a set of communion-plate and other appendages of divine worship, which were given them by Queen Anne, when they were seated in the colonies which now form part of the United States of America. I shall be happy to think that your Excellency will not forget the claims of these poor people, in what you are engaged in doing for Canada at home. *

The commands laid upon me by your Excellency, having immediately had reference to the visitation of Upper Canada, upon which I was

The Indians resident in Upper Canada, according to an Official Return in 1833, amounted to 5,039 Souls.

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immediich I was setting out at the time, I have forborne from troubling you with any details respecting the Lower Province. The observations, however, which I have submitted are, in great part, of common application to both Provinces; and although there is a far smaller number of Protestants in Lower Canada, the Protestant portion of the inhabitants is constantly gaining upon the older French population, and must be expected to receive progressively increasing accessions from the British Isles, chiefly of Protestants; while the original settlers of the Colony experience no augmentation of their numbers from any extraneous source.

There has been no census of the population of this Province since the year I831. At that time the Church of England population was estimated at 34,620 souls; the Church of Scotland population at 15,069; and the aggregate of all the non-episcopal Protestant Denominations, including the Church of Scotland, at 37,937. The Clergy of the Church of England are 44 in number, with 52 or 53 Churches and Chapels built or in progress. From 15 to 20 additional Clergymen would, I think, provide for the present wants of this portion of the Diocese. In Upper Canada, I believe that employment would be found for 100 beyond the existing establishment.

The petitions which are before your Excellency from the Clergy of both Provinces respectively contain suggestions which, if acted upon, would open the way for improving the efficiency of the Church Establishment in the Diocese; but, without some present aid from the Government, would be more tardy in their operation than the wants of the people would bear without detriment. Nothing can be less uniform and systematic than the manner in which a meagre supply of Clergy is at present eked out and distributed over the Diocese. One portion are paid from the imperial treasury (the salaries to be discontinued one by one, as vacancies occur); another from local resources at the disposal of Government; another is composed of Missionaries from home; and there are four different religious bodies (besides an individual of singular zeal in the cause) to whom the diocese is in this way indebted; and another still, although an exceedingly small portion, are dependent, in whole or in part, upon the people. Thus the establishment of Clergy, imperfect and insufficient as it is, is made up by means of shifts and expedients, and to a great extent is without any permanent character; and the task of the diocesan in procuring supplies, and maintaining communication with the different parties who afford them, is complicated in a distressing degree.

I am thus led to a subject which I have reserved as the last to be brought under the notice of your Excellency. The care of this diocese is altogether too much for one man. Certainly one man cannot do justice to it, situated as I am. Your Excellency is, I believe, aware that negotiations have for some time been on foot for the erection of a separate see in Upper Canada. It is, indeed, high time that this measure should be carried into effect; and for whatever time I am to remain in the charge of the whole diocese, I really ought (and so, indeed, I ought in any case) to be placed upon a new footing. In executing the duties of the visitation in the two Provinces, I have travelled nearly 5,000 miles; the extreme points which I have visited in the length of the diocese being Sandwich, at the head of Lake Erie; and the Bay of Chaleurs, in the Gulph of St. Lawrence. Of the state of the communication in the interior parts of the country and among the new settlements, your Excellency is not without information. No provision exists for enabling me to employ a single functionary in conducting correspondence with the Government, the Clergy, and the Societies at home, keeping in proper order and arrangement the accumulating records of the see, or transacting those ordinary forms of ecclesiastical business which are proper to the episcopal office; and in those departments of labour where the Bishop can receive assistance from the Arch-deacon, I am deprived of this benefit, as far as Lower Canada is concerned, because, under the existing arrangements, I am compelled to hold the office of Arch-deacon myself.

The foregoing observations are submitted, with all respect, to the serious consideration of your Excellency. Should it be your desire to be furnished with statements in detail, taken from the returns of the Clergy, it will be my endeavour to prepare them with all practicable despatch.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

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