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CANADA
CHURCH ESTABLISHMENT.

COPY OF A LETTER

Addressed to R. J. Wilnot Horton, Esq. by the
Rev. Dr. Strachan ; respecting the State of the
Church in the Province of Canada.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
22 May 1827.

CANADA
 CHURCH ESTABLISHMENT.

COPY OF

A LETTER addressed to *R. J. Wilmot Horton, Esq.* by the Rev. Dr. STRACHAN, Archdeacon of *York, Upper Canada*, dated 16th May 1827; respecting the State of the Church in that Province.

Colonial Department,
 Downing-Street, 22 May 1827. }

R. J. WILMOT HORTON.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed, 22 May 1827.

19, Bury-street, St. James's, 16th May 1827.

SIR,

I TAKE the liberty of enclosing for the information of Lord Goderich, an Ecclesiastical Chart of the Province of *Upper Canada*, which I believe to be correct, for the present year 1827, and from which it appears that the Church of England has made considerable progress, and is rapidly increasing.

The people are coming forward in all directions, offering to assist in building churches, and soliciting with the greatest anxiety the establishment of a settled minister; indeed the prospect of obtaining a respectable clergyman unites neighbourhoods together, and when one is sent of a mild conciliatory disposition, he is sure, in any settlement in which he may be placed, to form the respectable part of the inhabitants into an increasing congregation. There are in the province 150 townships, containing from 40 to 500 families, in each of which a clergyman may be most usefully employed; and double this number will be required in less than twelve years.

When contrasted with other denominations, the Church of England needs not to be ashamed of the progress she has made. Till 1818 there was only one clergyman in *Upper Canada*, a member of the Church of Scotland. This gentleman brought up his two sons in the Church of England, of which they are now parish priests. After his death his congregation was split into three divisions, which with another collected at *Kingston* in 1822, count four congregations in all, which are in communion with the Kirk of Scotland. Two are at present vacant, and of the two Scotch clergymen now in the province, one has applied for holy orders in the Church of England.

The teachers of the different denominations, with the exception of the two ministers of the Church of Scotland, four congregationalists, and a respectable English missionary who presides, of a Wesleyan Methodist Meeting, at *Kingston*, are for the most part from the United States, where they gather

their knowledge and form their sentiments; indeed the Methodist teachers are subject to the orders of the Conference of the United States of America, and it is manifest that the Colonial Government neither has nor can have any other control over them, or prevent them from gradually rendering a large portion of the population, by their influence and instruction, hostile to our institutions, both civil and religious, than by increasing the number of the established Clergy. Two assertions have been made respecting the Church of England in Upper Canada, which, if correct, ought certainly to have considerable influence. First, that her Clergymen have no congregations. Now I affirm from personal knowledge, that in the 58 places where regular or occasional service is performed, numerous and respectable congregations assemble. The second assertion is, that in the House of Assembly, consisting of 44 members, only two belong to the Church of England. Now the fact is, that 18 out of the 44 profess to be of the Church of England, for the truth of which I pledge myself, and can, if necessary, furnish the names; the remaining 26 are of various denominations, but certainly not more than three or four Scotch Presbyterians.

The Church of England in Canada, was supported for many years out of the very limited and fluctuating revenue of the venerable Society for Propagating the Gospel in Foreign Parts, which did its utmost to increase the number of the clergy, but its means were so inadequate to the demand, that it was at length obliged to solicit the aid of government to continue and extend its efforts, accordingly a small sum, in aid of its funds, has been for some years voted by the Imperial Parliament, of which Upper Canada receives a portion. How inefficient this aid is to supply the increasing necessities of the colony has been sufficiently shown, for the tendency of the population is towards the Church of England, and nothing but the want of moderate support prevents her from spreading over the whole province.

But it may be asked, why do not the Clergy Reserves afford a remedy?

To make the answer to this question intelligible, a few remarks are necessary.

By the 31st of George the 3d, c. 31. one-seventh of the land in Upper Canada is reserved for the maintenance of a Protestant Clergy; the operation of which provision offers at this time the following results:—The number of townships actually surveyed may be taken at 240, averaging 66,000 acres, one-seventh of which, 9,428, equal 47 reserved lots of 200 acres each, consequently the number of such lots, in 240 townships, is about 11,000, containing 2½ million of acres.

But as these lands partake of the quality of those around them, many lots will be found, from various causes, unfit for cultivation, so that the number eligible for settlement cannot be taken at more than 9,000, containing 1,800,000.

That this provision will at no time be ample for the support of a religious establishment sufficient for the population of Upper Canada when fully settled, will sufficiently appear from the fact, that the whole surface of the colony does not exceed 31 millions of acres, of which not more than 26 are capable of cultivation; one-seventh of this, containing 3,760,000 acres, or 18,800 reserved lots of 200 acres each, will ultimately constitute the whole property set apart for the maintenance of a Protestant clergy. Now, judging from what takes place in the United States, each lot will not produce in a century an average rent of £. 20. per annum, making a total of no more than £. 376,000. which, divided among two thousand clergymen (a very small number for a country nearly as large as England) gives only £. 188. to each.

Hitherto

Hitherto the reserved lands have been inefficient from causes now very obvious, though not perhaps anticipated by the distinguished statesman who advised the appropriation.

These causes are—

1.—The great encouragement given by government to settlers of good character, by bestowing on them land on payment of a trifling fee.

2.—The gratuitous grants of land made to such persons as retained their loyalty during the American revolutionary war, and to officers, soldiers and sailors who served in the late war in Europe and America.

3.—The preference given by the colonists to lands in fee-simple to leases, even where the latter are more advantageous.

4.—The difficulty of collecting rents, from the smallness of the amount charged in each lot, and from being scattered over the whole province.

5.—So long as applicants can get lands of the best quality and in the most convenient situations for nothing, or a mere trifle, the natural consequence is, that rent of lands upon lease is almost nominal.

In regard to the gross rental of the leased lots, it amounts to about £. 1,200. per annum, and was for a long time swallowed up by the expense of making out the leases necessary to convey the title to the applicant; and though this item of expense has been removed, it is still reduced by the and per centage of the sheriffs, who are employed to collect it, from persons scattered over a surface of nearly 40,000 square miles, so that the net sum actually paid over to the treasurer does not much exceed £. 400. per annum.

These things pressing forcibly on the minds of the Lord Bishop of Quebec and his Clergy, and on the Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada and his Council, induced them to seek the power of selling the Clergy Reserves to a limited extent, as well as leasing them, leaving the proceeds to be disposed of as provided for in the 31 Geo. 3. c. 31. and this is the object of the Bill before Parliament.

From this measure they look for many important advantages:—

1.—A large portion of the country, now in a manner locked up, would be made free.

2.—The lessees would be more punctual in paying their rents, for fear of losing any claim to renewal or advantageous purchase.

3.—The means would be afforded of multiplying clergymen to any number that might be required.

4.—The popular objection against the reserves, as a barrier to improvement and internal communication, would in a great degree be removed.

5.—The Imperial Parliament would in a few years be relieved from the annual grant, in aid of the Society for Propagating the Gospel in Foreign Parts, in as far as respects Upper Canada.

6.—Two or three hundred clergymen living in Upper Canada, in the midst of their congregations, and receiving the greater portion of their income from funds deposited in this country, must attach still more intimately the population of the colony to the parent state. Their influence would gradually spread. They would infuse into the inhabitants a tone and feeling entirely English; and acquiring by degrees the direction of education which the Clergy of England have always possessed, the very first feelings, sentiments and opinions of the youth must become British.

I have, &c.

(signed) John Strachan.

STATE OF THE CHURCH ESTABLISHMENT

ECCLESIASTICAL CHART for the Province of UPPER CANADA ;
For 1827.

I.—THE ESTABLISHED CHURCH.

DISTRICTS.	CLERGYMEN.	TOWNSHIPS.	CHURCHES Built or Building.	SERVICE.
Eastern District	Rev. S. J. Mountain Rev. J. G. Weagart	Cornwall	neat Church	Regular.
		Williamsburgh	small Church	Regular.
		Osnaburgh	small Church	Regular.
		Matilda	-	occasional.
Johnston District	Rev. F. Myers Rev. Mr. Blakey Rev. John Wenham Rev. Mr. Elms	Edwardsburgh	small Church	Regular.
		Prescott	neat Church	Regular.
		Brockville	Church	Regular.
		Bastard	small Church	Regular.
Bathurst District	Rev. Mr. Harris Rev. Mr. Burns	Younge	-	occasional.
		Perth	Church building	Regular.
		Lanark	-	occasional
		Richmond	Church building	Regular.
Midland District	Archdeacon Stuart Chaplain to the Navy	Kingston	Church	Regular.
		Navy Point	Church building	Regular.
	Rev. J. Stoughton	Waterloo	-	occasional.
		Bath	Church	Regular.
		Napane Mills	-	occasional.
		Fredericksburgh	Church building	occasional.
		Adolphus Town	Church	Regular.
		Hollowell	Church building	occasional.
Rev. Thos. Campbell Rev. Mr. Grier	Belville	Church	Regular.	
	Head of the Bay Indian Village	Church	Regular. occasional.	
Newcastle District.	Rev. Wm. Macauley Rev. Mr. Armour Rev. J. Thompson	Haldemand	-	occasional.
		Cobourgh	Church	Regular.
		Peterborough	-	Regular.
		Porthope	Church	occasional.
		Cavan	Church	Regular.
Home District	Archdeacon Strachan Dr. Phillips Dr. Tunny Clergyman a Lutheran, now under consideration	Whitby	-	occasional.
		York	Church	Regular.
		Younge Street	Church	occasional.
		Purdys Mills	Church building	occasional.
		Newmarket	Church building	occasional.
		Markham	Church	Regular.
Gore District	Rev. R. Leeming	Etobicoke	Church built	occasional.
		Toronto	Church building	occasional.
		Ancaster	Church	Regular.
		Burton	Church	Regular.
		Dundass	-	occasional.
Niagara District	Alexander Bethune Robert Addison Rev. Mr. Creen Rev. Mr. Leeds Wm. Leeming	Woolwich	Church	occasional.
		Indian Village	Church	occasional.
		Grimsby	Church	Regular.
		Niagara	Church	Regular.
		Queenston	Church	Regular.
		St. Catherine	Church	occasional.
		Cheppawa	Church	Regular.
		Short hills	-	occasional.
Fort Erie	Church	Regular.		
London District	Mr. Moreley Rev. Mr. M ^r Intosh	Long Point	Church building	occasional.
		Indian Village	-	occasional.
		Kettle Creek	Church	Regular.
		Port Talbot	-	occasional.
		London	Church building	occasional.
Western District	Rev. Mr. Short Mr. Rolph	River Thames	-	occasional.
		Sandwich	Church	Regular.
		Chatham	Church	Regular.
		Amherstburgh New Settlement	Church Church	Regular occasional.
Total	30 Clergymen, and one Lutheran under consideration.	53 places where there is regular or occasional service, exclusive of frequent journeys taken by the Missionaries to the New Settlements in their neighbourhood.	45 Churches—10 of them building, and others commencing at most of the places where occasional service is performed.	31 Regular Parishes—27 Service occasionally.

