

(Copy)

Toronto 8 Nov^r 1857

Rev & Dear Sir

I have just received your favor of the 4th instant enclosing M^r Geddes' letter of the 5th from Elora.

That mission has given me very much trouble of which the Rev. M^r. Smithurst is the sole cause, and he continues to stand in the way of any remedy from not tendering his resignation.

Nor can the arrangement suggested to you by M^r. Geddes, and to which you seem to lean, be carried out, because it calls on me to do an act of injustice to another mission by taking away its minister and commutation, and giving them to Elora which has already its own minister and commutation, and there virtually conferring two commutations on Elora, and leaving the innocent mission Charleston Johnstown Dist^t destitute, a thing not to be thought of.

1st. The Commutation makes us difference in the Government, order and discipline of the

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Church, much less does it justify or countenance any clergyman in attempting to make it serve his private views and convenience, - The stipend that the Rev. M^r. Smithurst receives, is given him while he serves a specified mission or Parish, and he can no more leave that Parish or Mission without the Bishop's sanction and approbation than he could have done before the Commutation took place. - hence the desertion of Elora without authority and going to Minto may be deemed a full though not a formal resignation.

2. The Commutation has two objects to accomplish. First to secure the Incumbent of every Parish mission or Parish his stipend during his natural life. 2. To insure to the mission or Parish the ministrations of the Church, hence whatever modifications may be found necessary for working out the measure in certain cases, these two points must always be maintained.

3. Now the conduct of the Rev M^r. Smithurst if permitted to pass with impunity would form a precedent for others to do the

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Same and thus lead to the destruction of all discipline and order through the Diocese, -He leaves his mission without the knowledge or permission of his Diocesan on pretence of laboring in another field of his own choosing and to which he has no regular call.

Again the Churchwardens and congregation of Elora (not unwilling perhaps to get rid of him,) instead of addressing me to take such steps as may compel him either to return to his residence in Elora, and the regular discharge of his clerical duties, or to send me his full and unqualified resignation call upon me to do an act of injustice to another parish which I have neither the power nor the inclination to do.

Such a state of things cannot continue long, unless he return to his duty immediately, for the commutation can only be paid to those who are doing duty in their respective missions, or are absent on leave.

It is nevertheless my intention to appoint

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A commission soon after the ordination of the 18th on the conduct of the Rev M^r Smithurst, and state of the mission of Elora and to bring matters to a final and I hope a satisfactory conclusion.

I would only add that on the 27th May last I wrote M^r Smithurst a letter of a similar import to this, of which he has taken no notice.

I remain

My dear & Rev Sir

Yours truly

(signed/ John Toronto

The Rev A Palmer A.M.?.D