

**File 121                      1842**  
**Bourne on purchasing glebe land**

Montreal 13<sup>th</sup> Jan'y 1842

Rev and Dear Sir,

I have been referred by his Lordship the Bishop of Montreal to yourself in connexion with other gentlemen in reference to a certain piece of ground which I recommended to Him to be purchased for a parsonage Lot and added to the Church Property in the Township of Rawdon.

His Lordship informed me that the Society P. G.<sup>1</sup> had consented to the purchase of the said lot provided it could be had upon desirable terms, and directed over to put you in possession of particulars, in order that you might frame a judgment as to the desirability [sic] of the purchase, and report to him accordingly

I have therefore respectfully to state, in the first place as the principal reasons which urge me to seek for this addition to the church property, 1<sup>st</sup> that the present situation of the parsonage is too far from water. The land is elevated and the soil light and sandy and though I would not say that the parsonage on this account is altogether useless, yet the inconvenience is too great to endure if it can be avoided. In addition to this I would state that the present parsonage is in a state of decay, and would require an amount equal to the cost of a new building to put it into a proper

state of repair. It is the opinion of all parties I believe that a new parsonage ought to be build and the Bishop intimates the willingness if the Society to provide one. In order therefore that the bounty of the Society should be rendered of more lasting and Substantial Service it is necessary that a new site be obtained. There are enough of discouragements to the permanent residence of a Clergyman in that place without the additional one of a wretched dwelling and a difficulty of obtaining water, which is perhaps as great an inconvenience as a family can be subjected to.

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<sup>1</sup> The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel was responsible for the missionaries at Rawdon starting with J. E. Burton, 1821.

2. The poverty and backwardness of the people to do any thing towards the support of the church and minister render it greatly desirable that a few acres of land should be added to the Church property, as a glebe sufficient to the pasturage and maintenance of a horse and Cow and 3. the proximity of the proposed land to the Village and contiguity to the present Church property admitting of its being thrown into the continuous lot, whereas its value to the Church and forces an argument in favor of its being preferred to any other spot.

In regard to the value of the property itself I agree with the opinion expressed by members of my vestry who were assembled at the parsonage on the 10<sup>th</sup> Inst. a statement of which is herewith submitted, signed by members. As you will then find the land is

Contained in different positions, belonging to different in dividable. 3 acres being valued at £5 per Acre 10 at in all 18 acres at an average of about £3. per acre £2.10 p Acre and 5 at £3 per acre ^ the greater part of the whole being church. There is no room I believe to expect that it can be obtained for less; indeed I may say, from the declarations of the parties owning the land, I am sure that it cannot. A secure title I believe can be obtained for the whole. If an insurmountable objection should be made to the purchase of the whole on the ground of expense, I would correctly recommend that at least the two last mentioned portions should be purchased amounting to 15 acres at the cost of £40 I subjoin a rough sketch to afford you an idea of the relative situation of the proposed land.

I have the honor to be

Reverend Dear Sir

Your Most Obed't Serv't

To The Rev. Dr. Bethune

R. H. Bourne

Montreal

present

*Montreal is blacked out.*

*The "Sketch of the land proposed to be purchased" drawn by Mr. Bourne is similar, although less detailed, to the one in File 122. It does, however, give the location of the property where the church and cemetery were located which was "2<sup>nd</sup> Range of Village Lots Nos. 1 and 2".*