

File 122 1842
Summary of negotiations by Mr. Bourne concerning adding to church property

Rawdon 10th March 1842

My Lord

I regret to have to contribute to the pressure of your Lordship's engagements which I fear are already too much for your Lordship's strength. But circumstances seem to render it necessary or important that the business in hand should be disposed of without delay and I require some further instructions from your Lordship before I can clear the purchase of the land. Your Lordship's favor of the 2nd Inst. was duly received, and I have promised to draw upon your Lordship for the sum specified; at the same time it is proper for me to state that obstacles have arisen to prevent Mr Bateman¹'s winding up his affairs and getting away as soon as expected.

I desire to be directed by your Lordship how the deeds are to be made out, whether as the patents of the land purchased from the crow, in the name of the Lord Bishop of Quebec and the Select Vestry, or otherwise. It seems proper also that I should be duly authorized to make the purchase, and that it should be stated to what uses the land is to be appropriated, and to whose disposal and direction it is to be subject.

It is I presume your Lordship's design to furnish me with all necessary information in regard to the amount

to be laid out in Rawdon but I would respectfully offer a few remarks in anticipation of the requirement which the Society² has apparently made in respect to the dedication of a certain rate from the Missionary's salary. It seems necessary, my Lord, and orderly that the Missionary, should really reap advantage from such grants, that an engagement should be required on the part of the congregation to make up the difference, and when the principle of contributing to the support of the Gospel is acknowledged and especially the duty of a Congregation to provide a suitable dwelling for their pastor, as has been done here, I think it would not be difficult to make such an agreement. As the period is soon approaching when there will be a general meeting of the Congregation & the election of a new Vestry, it would perhaps be advisable if all that is necessary to be done upon the subject could be previously understood. I have not had a meeting of my vestry lately, but heretofore they have decidedly acknowledged that they ought to provide a parsonage, and some contributions have been made to that object and if they should be exempted from that burden they cannot reasonably object to pay the interest of money advanced for that purpose. Some of my brother Clergymen seem decidedly opposed to the plan proposed by the Society as appearing to them a less advantageous course to the Missionary than if he borrowed money on his own

account, on interest, and invested it in personal property.

If I were as apprehensive of the results myself I should have hesitated to address any responsibility in that way, but I have been rather disposed to consider the arrangement as a reasonable one; and one by which, if the missionary gained nothing

he need lose nothing. Serious difficulties may be started in regard to it, but I omit further remarks on this subject. In the expectation that my congregation will accede to some requisition of the kind I have proposed, I have ventured to proceed without waiting for any particular understanding in reference to it.

Your Lordship intimated that it might be necessary for me to furnish particulars respecting the remainder of the expenditure it maybe well for me therefore to mention that there are two other portions of land recommended to be purchased. First the two Acres belonging to a Mr. Griffiths³ in Montreal situated between the present parsonage lot, and the land belonging to Mr. Bateman separated from the former by the line for a public road. This is rated at £5 per acre and Secondly 5 acres belonging to Mr. Rood⁴, who is the present proprietor of the farm of which the whole once formed a part. It lies at the opposite extremity of Mr. Bateman's piece of land, and is valued at £2 per acres. The remaining Sum is therefore £25 for the 7 acres – The first mentioned portion is valued high on account of its joining the village and situation upon the line of road, the other in amount of its being convenient to water, &c.

It may afford your Lordship some idea of the situation of the land for me to annex a rough outline of the portions to be purchased.

A map of some village properties is sketched with the following notations overwritten and to the right of the sketch.

"Lots recommended for purchase"

"present church property about ten acres" with burial ground, church and parsonage indicated.⁵

East of this – "1 acre belonging to Bateman" "2 acres belonging to Griffiths [sic] of Montreal"

East of this – "10 acres belonging to Mr. Bateman" then proposed site of parsonage and east of this to the river "5 acres belonging to Mr. Rood".

The River, two saw mills and various roads are marked and on the right side of the page this note'

As long as the line Road, separating the land to be purchased from the present Church property is not required to be opened, the whole of the property can be thrown into one lot excepting a small portion occupied by the church Burial Grd.

Before I close the present communication would mention that I have two pieces of ground made over by Messers Dixon of Kildare for a Church, Burial ground & that I took upon myself the respon-

sibility of accepting of the transfer of the property in the name of you Lordship and a Select Vestry (which is however not yet elected) and I would be thankful if your Lordship would inform me if it be sufficient for me without some commission or confirmation from your Lordship. Another question concerning School property made over to the Royal Institution⁶ I would beg to ask your Lordship, namely – whether the Royal Institution still possesses the exclusive right to such property or whether it has become subject to the disposal of Common School Commissioners?

The centre fold of the page is the address face of the letter with notation “Rev. R. Bourne 10th March 42. Received 21st March Rawdon Purchase”

letter continues

I must state to your Lordship also that another of the individuals of whom land is to be purchased (namely Mr. Rood) told me yesterday that when he consented to sell the 5 acres, he did not expect that it would be so long before it was settled, and if it were not soon settled he would not be disposed to sell it. It may therefore be prudent to have the whole disposed if as soon as possible.

I remain, my Lord, Your Lordship's most obed't Serv't
R. H. Bourne

ENDNOTES:

¹ Hiram Bateman was a tanner and resident at Rawdon, arriving after the 1831 census. He is mentioned in George Copping's Journal in May 1836 and in the church register as a witness to the burial of George Cook in March 1840.

² The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel was responsible for the missionaries at Rawdon starting with J. E. Burton, 1821.

³ Thomas Griffiths [sic] Griffith, a retired officer, arrived at Rawdon prior to the 1831 census and owned property on several ranges. He served as Agent for the Crown for several years. He was addressed as “Lieutenant Colonel”, which was his Militia rank and had served as commander of the Loyal Rawdon Volunteers during the 1837 rebellion. He received Patents for Village lots in 1848 which had been advertised for sale in 1845. This letter places him as a resident of Montreal in 1842 and already owning lots in the village.

⁴ I am unable to identify this man who I have not found mentioned in other documents relating to Rawdon.

⁵ This appears to be where the church and cemetery are located, today and that the purchase of some if not all the property was concluded.

⁶ The Royal Institution for the Advancement of Learning was responsible for education prior to a Ministry of Education.