

REPORT &c.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE TO WHOM
was referred the Bill sent up from the House of Assembly entitled, "An Act for the disposal of the "Clergy Reserves in this Province for the purposes "of general Education," with instructions to report upon the principles and details of the Bill, and also upon the provision made by law for the support of Religion in this Province, as well as upon the questions which have arisen respecting it, and the measures which have been taken in England and in this Country in relation to the same, have examined into the matters referred to them, and have agreed upon the following Report, which they trust may serve to bring the subject under the view of your Honorable House in its several bearings, and in a connected manner :

When the Country which now constitutes the Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada became part of the dominions of the British Crown, it contained a population of about 65,000 inhabitants, lately subjects of the French King, among whom the Roman Catholic Religion exclusively prevailed. An Ecclesiastical establishment with Priests, Curates and Missionaries, probably adequate in number to the religious care and instruction of the community, had existed under the protection of the French Government, supported