

SECULAR STATE OF THE CHURCH,

IN THE DIOCESE OF TORONTO, CANADA WEST.

IN order to give as complete and satisfactory an account of the secular affairs of the Church in this Province as I am able, it appears necessary to commence from the beginning.

The Clergy in the British Colonies before the American Revolution, were chiefly, if not all, Missionaries sent out by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts.

After the peace of 1783 this Society withdrew all assistance from such of the Missionaries as remained in the United States, and recognized those only who removed into the Colonies which still remain faithful to their allegiance, and to these they determined in future to confine their benevolence.

And here it may be observed, that the Society from its first Incorporation in 1701, required, as it still requires, before sending out a Missionary to any new place in the Colonies, that a petition be presented by the people or congregation of such place requesting a Clergyman, and signifying their ability and willingness to contribute towards his support. It was further required that a Church should be immediately built, a glebe secured, a Parsonage therein erected, and a subscription entered into for the Missionary's maintenance. All this having been done, a Missionary was sent with a salary of £50 sterling per annum, and an outfit of not less than £30. But if the people failed in their engagements, the Missionary was removed to another station where the like terms were insisted upon and guaranteed.

The Society never intended to relieve the people from all expence in the support of religion. Their object has ever been to cherish and assist the exertions of the Colonists, and to encourage poor and feeble congregations for a time, and as they became able and willing to maintain public worship, the Society expect them to do so, and to do it wholly, so that the salary and other aid which they had perhaps for a long time enjoyed, might be transferred to some other settlement where