

had upon the interests and happiness of the United Kingdom, His Majesty and the British Parliament had the opportunity on the other hand, of judging from recent events, how far the neglecting to make any such provision among a people was likely to prove consistent with the stability of Government, and with a sound moral and religious condition of society.

The result of a mature consideration of the subject seems to have led the King and his Parliament to the resolution of making an adequate provision for the support of Religion, and to protect that provision with scrupulous care.

At the time this foundation was laid, Upper Canada was supposed to contain 10,000 inhabitants, chiefly of British descent; the population at present is, probably not less than 350,000, a small proportion of which is contained in Towns and Villages, and the remainder dispersed over a country not less in extent than England and Wales, and inhabiting about 300 Townships or tracts of land, each of which is nearly ten miles square. Allotments of land, called Clergy Reserves, have been regularly set apart since the passing of the Statute, in proportion as grants of land have been made to individuals, and these Reserves have been usually distributed through the Townships, in lots of 200 acres each. For many years these lands produced little revenue, there being no power to alienate them, even if a suitable price could have been obtained; and so long as the Crown