

## INTRODUCTION.

---

By a recent Act of the Legislature, the monies derived from the sale of the Lands called Clergy Reserves, were placed at the disposal of the different municipalities in the country, with a certain restriction—that they might be expended for any object to which the municipalities have authority to apply other monies, and for no other. For the information of those who may not be acquainted with the subject, it may be necessary briefly to state what the Clergy Reserves were. In 1791 the Imperial Parliament passed an Act, known as the Canada Bill, which was to serve as the future Constitution of the Province. Among other things, this Constitutional Act provided that one-seventh of all the public lands granted were to be “reserved” for the support and maintenance of a Protestant Clergy. This reservation did not constitute an act of appropriation. There seems to have been an intention on the part of the British Government, that the lands so reserved, should be afterwards appropriated as endowments of Church of England Rectories. This, however, was never done except to a very limited extent; and the lands so appropriated ceased to be treated as Clergy Reserves. The whole amount of lands thus reserved was about three millions of acres, of which some two-thirds lay in Upper Canada. In 1819, the Imperial Government instructed the Colonial Government of