

ment might be in existence in consequence of the executed provisions of the Act, and thus to leave Religion totally and absolutely without public support in the Colony. Your Committee merely advert to the doubt which has been raised on this point, and express no opinion upon it. It becomes the less material to determine which construction is proper, when it is considered that no Act passed by this Legislature affecting the Reserves in any manner can have the force of Law, unless it meets with the approbation of every branch of the Imperial Parliament.

The earnest attention with which the Sovereign and Parliament of Great Britain desired to secure an adequate support for a Protestant Clergy within this Colony, is especially worthy of remark, when it is remembered, that in the period which intervened between the passing of the Statute 14 Geo. 3, and the Statute in question, a vast change had taken place in regard to the dominions of the Crown on this continent. A revolution had, in that interval, deprived Great Britain of Colonial possessions more extensive and valuable than can ever again be acquired by any Nation in the world. From various causes, and perhaps chiefly from the peculiar circumstances under which the most considerable of these Colonies had first been settled, it had happened that the Parent State had abstained from laying in any of them, the foundations of an Ecclesiastical establishment : besides therefore, the experience on the one hand of the effect which the maintenance of a resident and regular Clergy