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## REPORT

Of the Special Committee of the House of Assembly of *Lower Canada*, to whom were referred the Petitions of the Church Wardens and Inhabitants of the Parish of *St. Anne de la Perade*, relating to the affairs of the Fabrique of the said Parish;

Your Committee have considered the two petitions referred to them; they afford sufficient evidence that in the Parish in which the petitioners reside, pernicious differences of opinion prevail on the subject of the right of the Parishioners to have a vote in the management of the temporal concerns of the Parish Church; Your Committee are also aware that similar differences prevail in other parts of the Province, which have given rise to litigation in the Courts of Justice, which in such matters generally proves injurious to the interests of Religion and to the peace and welfare of the Parishioners.

Your Committee are aware that the practice in this Province, founded on the Laws of *France*, has been in most instances favorable to the principal Inhabitants of the Parish having a vote in the management of all the temporal concerns of the Church, and if deviations have in other instances prevailed in the lapse of time, they may have arisen from particular local circumstances.

Your Committee are of opinion that it may be expedient to adopt Legislative measures to obviate the present and similar difficulties, by defining the mode in which the principal proprietors in the Roman Catholic Parishes, may have a vote in the management of the temporal concerns of the Parochial Churches.

All which is nevertheless humbly submitted.

(Signed)

J. NEILSON,  
Chairman.