

No. 7.
Lieutenant
Governor Simcoe
to
the Duke of
Portland,
8th Nov. 1795.

your Grace that if His Majesty's Ministers are determined to enforce the Perception of Tithes, the sooner it be undertaken the better. And I think the Mode by which the Province might be induced to emancipate itself from this most grievous of all Burthens would be by an Act of the Legislature, declaring each *Township* or *Parish* respectively free from Tithes on the Inhabitants thereof affording a certain Assistance in clearing Part of the Lands on which the Clergyman should reside, and contributing a certain Portion of Labour to the Erection of a Parsonage and Church.

This Proposition is liable to many Objections which probably I do not foresee, as well as to others with which I am duly impressed. It is true that it is the Practice of the American Settler to assist in the Erection of a Place of Worship and the House of its Minister, but it is not probable that he will be influenced by this Custom to assist in the building of a Church, &c. for the Use of the Church of England, of which Communion there are very few Persons in the Province. There may be also considerable Difficulties in ascertaining the Quantum of Labour on the Performance of which Tithes should cease in the respective Townships; nor am I by any Means certain that the Legislature will in any Degree assent to the Proposition.

It was ever my Opinion that the Erection of the Established Church, had it preceded that of other Places of Worship, would in a great Measure have superseded their Necessity, and that the American Settlers, who are Independents, not Presbyterians, would without Difficulty have returned to their Mother Church. Experiment has confirmed my Opinions. Immediately on receiving the Estimates as voted by Parliament for the ensuing Year I acquainted the Missionary at this Place, Mr. Addison, that One hundred Pounds would be allowed on the Part of the Government towards the Construction of a Church; unfortunately the last Year, a Presbyterian Clergyman having arrived from Scotland, the Inhabitants of all Denominations built a Place of Worship, so that I apprehend very little Assistance can be expected from them in the Erection of the Episcopal Church.

No. 8.

No. 8.
Lieutenant
Governor Simcoe
to
the Duke of
Portland,
20th June 1796.

From Lieutenant Governor SIMCOE to the Duke of PORTLAND, dated York, Upper Canada, 20th June 1796.

(No. 43.)—Extract.

THERE does not appear to have been any Disposition in either House to oppose the Measures of Government, although Petitions from the Eastern District for the Repeal of the Marriage Act, couched in Terms exceedingly improper and highly unbecoming, were laid upon the Table of the House of Assembly a few Days antecedently to the Close of the Session. The Agitation of this serious Subject was postponed; but there is Reason to believe this Matter will be discussed upon the meeting of the next Provincial Parliament. I intimated to your Grace, in my Despatch No. 27. accompanying the Laws of the Fourth Session of this Province, the Probability of the Discussion of this Subject upon the present Occasion. I had previously, in my Letter to Mr. Dundas with No. 16. of the 16th of September 1793, and in No. 28. in August 1794, spoken of the Subject, and subjoined thereto a Memorandum of the late Chief Justice Osgoode's, elucidatory of it.

I beg leave to observe to your Grace, that, excepting the Petition for the Repeal of the Marriage Act (a Copy of which I feel it my Duty to enclose), every Mark of Respect and good Will to the Government was evinced, as far as it was possible to judge of the Temper and Disposition of the Houses, since no Measure was brought forward on the Part of the Executive Powers; and, much to my Satisfaction, the last Session of the First Provincial Parliament of Upper Canada terminated, apparently, with great Unanimity.

In regard to the Petition on the Repeal of the Marriage Act, I was sorry to remark that it was signed by most of the Magistrates of the Lower Districts, under a real or feigned Pretext of dreaded popular Tumults. A Mr. Bethune, of the Presbyterian Church of Scotland, and late Chaplain of Sir John John-

son's

No. 1.