

subject, nor was the legal effect of that Statute in any respect changed. The objects of this recent Statute seem to have been, to render a portion of the Reserves more immediately available for the support of Clergymen, by raising a fund to be applied in clearing and improving them; to diminish the pretence for complaining that the Reserves obstructed the settlement of the country, by providing for their gradual alienation; and to enable the Crown to change any of the Reserves for other lands either belonging to the Government or to individuals, when such an exchange might seem desirable for any purpose.

In 1828, the petitions and complaints proceeding from the adjoining Province of Lower Canada, and the difficulties which had occurred there, occasioned the affairs and interests of that Province to be brought under the consideration of the House of Commons; and in the course of an inquiry conducted by a Committee of that House, the subject of the Clergy Reserves was examined and considered, with reference to both these Provinces. The Attorney General, Solicitor General, and Advocate General of England, had, as it appears, been called upon in 1819, to give an opinion on the proper construction of the 31 Geo. 3. in regard to the words "Protestant Clergy," and it will be seen from their opinion, which we subjoin in the Appendix,\* that in their judgment, the Church of England alone could be endowed with any portion of the

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\* Appendix D.