

by the British General, who left it to depend upon the King's pleasure. After thirteen years experience of the dutiful, peaceable and good behaviour of his Canadian subjects, and at a time when his other American subjects were become turbulent, licentious, and refractory, the King, to whose goodness the matter had been referred, thought proper, with the approbation and consent of Parliament, to comply with the reasonable expectations and requests of the Canadians, in allowing the clergy to enjoy their wonted support, under certain restrictions and limitations. But this indulgence by no means converts the stipulated toleration into an establishment, as the Gentlemen of the Congress are pleased to assert.

*Tithes in Canada* are the property of the Romish church; and permitting a tolerated church to enjoy its own property, is far short of the idea of an establishment. If the city of New-York should be conquered by the Papists from France, or the Independents from New-England; (which I believe in my conscience would be much the worst event of the two) and at the time of its surrender, the corporation of *Trinity Church* should contract for the free exercise of their religion, &c. the confirmation of this liberty, with a permission still to enjoy the estate that belongs to them, (upon which some people have long cast an envious and wishful eye) would not amount to what is commonly understood by a religious establishment. An established religion, is a religion which the civil authority engages, not only to protect, but to support; and a religion that is not provided for by the civil authority, but which is left to provide for itself, or to subsist on the provision it has already made, can be no more than a tolerated religion.

Now the Popish religion in *Canada* the Government is under no engagement to provide for; it is only allowed to enjoy such provisions as it has made for itself, in a general way; and when this proposition is curtailed, whenever a Papist embraces the Protestant religion; and the various religious orders and communities are entirely dispossessed of their respective effects. But it evidently appears from the act, that it is the object of Government to make provision, as fast as the state of the country will admit of it, "for the encouragement of the Protestant religion, and for the maintenance and support of a Protestant Clergy."

From what has been offered, the inference is clear, that the Popish religion is only tolerated in *Canada*; and that it is meant to establish the Protestant religion in that colony. If, after all, men will confound the meaning of words, and make no distinction between *toleration* and *establishment*, they degrade themselves into the rank of quibblers and praters, and it is loss of time to dispute with them.