

REPORT.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE appointed to inquire into the state of the Civil Government of *Canada*, as established by the Act 31 Geo. III. and to report their Observations thereupon to The House; and to whom several PETITIONS for an alteration in the present Government were referred;—HAVE examined the Matters to them referred, and agreed to the following REPORT:

YOUR Committee began their investigation into the State of the Civil Government of *Canada*, by examining the several Petitions from the Inhabitants of the two Provinces, which had been referred to them by the House. The Petitions from the Townships of the Lower Province, signed by above 10,000 persons, complain of the want of Courts within their own limits, and of the administration of French Law in the French Language; that they are without Representation in the House of Assembly in Lower-Canada, and that Emigrants of British origin have been deterred from settling in the Province; and, finally, they pray that a Legislative Union may take place between Upper and Lower-Canada.

Your Committee then proceeded to examine the Petition signed by about 87,000 Inhabitants of Lower-Canada, resident within the Seigneuries, who complain of arbitrary conduct on the part of the Governor of the Province; of his having applied public money without legal appropriation; of violent prorogations and dissolutions of the Provincial Parliament; and of his having prevented the passing of many useful Acts, which they enumerate. They complain also, that a Receiver-General had been maintained in the exercise of his functions for some years after his insolvency was known to the Government; that similar abuses had prevailed with respect to the office of Sheriff. And it is further stated, that the rights of the Petitioners had been injured by Acts of the Imperial Parliament, particularly by the Canada Trade Act, and the Act passed in the sixth year of His Majesty's Reign, c. 59, affecting the Tenures of Land.

For a further knowledge of the grievances complained of, your Committee beg leave to refer to the Petitions which will be found in the Appendix.

Before your Committee proceed to explain or to discuss these important subjects, they think it their duty to state, that Petitions from the Province of Upper-Canada were also referred to their consideration; the prayer of which Petitions is, that the proceeds arising from the sale of certain Lands, set apart for a Protestant Clergy, may not be applied solely to the use of the Clergy of the Church of England, (the adherents to which throughout the Province they state, in contradiction to the representations of Archdeacon Strachan, to be comparatively few in number), but that they may be applied to the maintenance of Protestant Clergymen of other denominations, and to the purposes of general education.