

habits of Religion, or supplied in the present important stage of their progress, with the means of transmitting to their descendants the faith and worship which they have received from their fathers.

I hope I may be pardoned, my Lord, if I here very briefly notice an argument which has been often used to the prejudice of those interests for which I am pleading,—namely that the Episcopal Church is seen to flourish in the United States of America, without having the advantages of an establishment. It will be found, my Lord, in the first place, that where the flourishing condition of that Church is particularly conspicuous, which is in the City and Diocese of New York, it is mainly attributable under Divine Providence, to her having retained the endowments which proceeded from the royal munificence of England; and it is known to myself that some of her most eminent living Bishops have lamented her struggling condition, and unfavorable prospects in other quarters, from her entire dependence upon the system of voluntary support. In more than one instance, indeed, within the last few years, her Bishops have appeared in this country in the character of itinerant solicitors for aid to uphold the Church in their own.

The provision made for the Church of England in Canada, by the 31. Geo. III. c. 31., is not one which can press upon any class of His Majesty's subjects, or bring the Clergy into collision with their Parishioners, or others, in the exaction of dues. With reference to the Roman Catholic population of Lower Canada, who constitute a religious body far surpassing in point of numbers, any other in the two Provinces, it cannot be supposed that an adherence on the part of His