

land, insignificant in extent and value, at the time it was made, compared with the Clergy Reserves set apart in this Colony, by His late Majesty King George the Third, but which grants, being scrupulously preserved and respected by succeeding Governments, now yield most munificent resources for the support of religion.

When your Committee also take into consideration, that our Roman Catholic fellow subjects in Lower Canada are enjoying at this day the most ample endowments for their Church and Colleges, arising from early grants of land, which, if alienated at the value they once bore, would have afforded but a nominal provision, wholly inadequate to the wants of the passing hour, they feel strongly the impolicy of the provisions of the Act to which they have referred, and the justice of the claims set forth by the Petitioners. Besides, it is stated in the Petition of the Church Society, "that the Petitioners have observed with great regret, that under the system which has been adopted for the sale of the Clergy Reserves, and from the great deduction from the proceeds for the expense of inspection and management, their share of the fund, which has been appropriated by the Legislature to the religious instruction of the people, is likely to be in a great measure consumed in charges which to them appear unnecessary, and to so great an extent that they are apprehensive that it will yield little more than a nominal provision for the support of the Church." To this portion of the Petition your Committee have devoted a good deal of attention, and it appears to them that a very large and unnecessary degree of expense has been incurred in the manner pointed out by the Petitioners.

By certain public Returns made by the Commissioner of Crown Lands, and by the Surveyor General, and laid before the Legislature, in compliance with an Address of the 9th October, 1843, it appears that the sums which are realised from the sales of the Reserves are in a great measure sunk in the expense of management, and in defraying the general charges of the Land Granting Department.

Your Committee find that, in addition to a deduction of five per cent. out of all monies received by the District Agents, and besides the charge of remunerating a large number of Inspectors of Clergy Reserves, who have been appointed to be paid by the day, at a rate not specified in the Returns, the proceeds of these lands are also charged, by an order of the Government made in August, 1841, with forty per cent. for the expense of the Crown Land Department. Up to the time of that return, it appears that in Lower Canada there had been no sales of Clergy Reserves since the 1st of January, 1838, and that since the Union of the Provinces not more than about £1,150 had been received on account of the funds, while £609, or more than one half of the whole amount received, had been charged against it as disbursed for expenses.

In the first half of the year 1843, the whole moneys collected in Lower Canada seem not to have exceeded £75 16s. 6d., while the disbursements charged against the fund are £431 9s. 2d.

In Upper Canada, it appears by the same documents that the sales of Reserves had been few for some time previously, though large sums had been received on account of previous sales.

In the year 1842, the collections amounted to £18,000, and the disbursements to £5,196.

For the year 1843, the amount collected up to the 1st July is stated at about £7,000, and the charges at £1,763 11s. 3d., and while so large a sum as that