

in 1774. In that Statute the principal object of attention evidently was to guard the rights of those who instructed the people in the prevailing religion, by giving the sanction of the law of England to the exaction of those tithes and dues, which had been yielded to the Clergy under the French government. It was deemed equitable to exempt from the payment of them such British subjects as were not members of the Roman Catholic Church; and inasmuch as from them no tithes were to be demanded by the Clergy of the Church of Rome, it was enacted, that out of the *rest of the said* accustomed dues and rights, that is, out of those tithes or dues payable by Protestants, and therefore not to be received by the Roman Catholic Clergy, His Majesty might make provision for the maintenance and support of a Protestant Clergy. Instead of this provision, burthensome in its nature and not certain to be sufficiently productive for the maintenance of a Clergy among a widely dispersed population, the Act of 1791 made a much more just, adequate, and satisfactory provision by the allotment of lands in the proportion therein specified. His Majesty had, as we have already noticed, desired in his message to Parliament “that such appropriation should be permanent, and such as might best conduce to the due and sufficient support of a Protestant Clergy in proportion to such increase as might happen in the population,” and Parliament in this Statute which they passed, declared their resolution of “fulfilling effectually His Majesty’s gra-