

of Great Britain passed in the 31st year of the reign of King George the Third, chap. 31, as relates to Rectories, and the presentation of Incumbents to the same, and for other purposes connected with the Rectories."

When this Statute passed the Legislature of the Colony in August, 1851, I happened to be absent Confirming, and knew nothing of its provisions till my return: this I very much regret, because it would have been my duty to petition against it, as not only invading the prerogative of the Crown, and inconsistent with the respect due to the National Church, by ignoring the Bishop in matters in which he is officially interested, but as introducing a mode of transacting Ecclesiastical business unknown to the Church Catholic in any age or country. I had, nevertheless, some consolation in the hope that it would not be sanctioned by the Imperial Government, and that its reference to England would be the last we should hear of it.

In this I am disappointed; for while on a journey of Confirmation last summer I learned that the measure had been returned with the Queen's approbation, and, having been proclaimed by His Excellency the Governor General, in the usual manner, had become the law of the Province. No copy of the Act has ever been officially sent to me, nor was it without some difficulty that I procured one late in September: and on the first assembling of the Society in October steps were taken to convene this special meeting.

What the motives may have been which suggested this Statute in its present shape, I am unable to conjecture; but the greatest opponent of the Church could scarcely have devised a measure more pregnant with trouble and perplexity, as is already mournfully proved by the numerous and conflicting schemes set afloat to arrange its requirements. Let us then, my brethren, earnestly