

the Reserves was apparent on the Statute, and was also capable of being supported, under the articles for the union of the two Kingdoms.

This claim, on the part of the Church of Scotland, was from that period advanced and persevered in: the arguments in favor of it, and those in opposition, have been from time to time placed before His Majesty's Government in various shapes; but up to this time, as the Committee apprehend, no decision of the question has been pronounced by any Judicial authority, nor any definite measure taken in consequence.

In this country, where the first conception of such a claim seems to have originated, it is manifest it could not be finally decided, and therefore it is, perhaps, unfortunate that it should have been agitated here, since the discussion has hitherto led to no decisive result, and has been injurious, in no small degree, to the public interests and tranquility. It soon led the way to less definite pretensions, and to claims which have depended for their support rather upon the feelings which could be excited by a course of industrious agitation, than upon any reasonable construction or constitutional principle. In a short time after a claim was put forward on behalf of the Church of Scotland, it began to be asserted that the term "a Protestant Clergy" might, in law, and ought in equity to receive such a construction as would comprehend the Ministers of every denomination of