

# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

COMMITTEE ROOM,

19th February, 1845.

The Committee to whom was referred the Petition of the Church Society of the Diocese of Toronto, and other Petitions signed by many thousand persons, members of the United Church of England and Ireland, resident in the said Diocese of Toronto and the Diocese of Quebec, praying to have the controul over, and the disposition and arrangement of, their respective shares of the Clergy Reserves, as is equivalent to the proportion of the funds assigned by the provisions of an Act of the Imperial Parliament, passed in the fourth year of Her Majesty's reign, for the support of the Church of England, beg leave respectfully to Report:

That by the said Act, intituled, "An Act to provide for the sale of the Clergy Reserves in the Province of Canada, and for the distribution of the proceeds thereof," the Government of this Province is empowered to sell all or any of the Clergy Reserves, under regulations to be approved by Her Majesty in Council, and that the proceeds in money to be derived from the sale and leasing of the Clergy Reserves, after the deduction of certain allowances which are specified in the said Act, are directed to be divided into two equal parts; one of which is to be distributed in certain proportions between the Churches of England and Scotland, and the other part to be applied by the Governor of this Province, with the advice of His Executive Council, for purposes of Public Worship and religious instruction in Canada.

From the foregoing provisions it appears to your Committee, that it was not the policy of the Imperial Parliament, at the time of the passing of the said Act, to apportion the said lands among the denominations of Christians whose claims were therein recognised, but rather to place the Clergy Reserves at the disposal of the Government, to be sold, and the proceeds to be divided in the proportions mentioned in the said Act.

Your Committee, however, have given the subject, and the matters set forth in the various Petitions referred to them, their best consideration, and they are led to doubt the utility or expediency of such a policy, and particularly when they cannot but consider that at the time these lands were originally set apart for the support of religion and the maintenance of Public Worship, it was thereby intended to create an adequate fund to form a permanent endowment for those important objects.

And when it is further borne in mind, that the members of the Church of England inhabiting the State of New York, are at this day enabled to erect their churches and station their missionaries in every section of that extensive country, by the aid of funds provided by the pious care of a British Monarch, when that country was a British Colony;—

That the numerous Dutch population of the same State are supplied with Pastors from ample funds provided also at an early day by the care of the Government, and that in both these cases the foundation of the endowment was a grant of