

“ footing of the proceedings in France and the Judicial Acts of the
 “ Sovereign Tribunals in that Country, the Estates in this Province
 “ would naturally fall to His Majesty, and be subjected to his unlimi-
 “ ted disposal, for by those decisions it was established upon good legal
 “ and constitutional grounds, that from the nature of the first Establish-
 “ ment or Admission of the Society into France, being conditional,
 “ temporary, and probational, they were at all times liable to expul-
 “ sion, and having never complied with, but rejected the terms of their
 “ admission, they were not even entitled to the name of a Society ; whe-
 “ refore, and by reason of the abuses and destructive principles of their
 “ Institution, they were stript of their property and possessions which
 “ they were ordered to quit upon ten days notice, after having been
 “ compelled to give in a full statement of all they had, with the several
 “ Title Deeds, and Documents or Proofs in support of it. Seques-
 “ trators or Guardians were appointed to the management of their Es-
 “ tates, and in a course of time and with a regularity proportioned to
 “ their importance, provision was made for the application of them in
 “ the various ways that Law, Reason, Justice, and Policy dictated ;
 “ and all this was done at the suit of the Crown Officer by the Courts
 “ of France, as we apprehend in a Judicial and not in a Legislative
 “ Capacity.”

Your Committee had reason to doubt the correctness of the above Statement, and instituted a long and patient enquiry into the proceedings had in France upon the occasion of the suppression of the late Order of the Jesuits, in relation to the Colleges and Seminaries belonging to the Order, and to the Lands wherewith they were endowed.

The inveteracy of the error to which the afore-mentioned Report of the Law Officers of the Crown within the Colony would appear to have first given birth, seemed to require on the part of your Committee more minute details, than, under different circumstances, and in a matter of less importance, they would have otherwise deemed necessary.

The commercial embarrassments of the Order, and the legal proceedings had in consequence in the Courts of France, on the part of their Creditors for the recovery of their debts, gave occasion to a judicial enquiry into the Constitution of the Order.

Father Lavallette, a Jesuit Priest, sent by his General in America, under the Title of Superintendant of the Missions to the Windward Islands, purchased upon the Conquest of several of those Islands by the British arms, large quantities of merchandize and considerable real estates from the French Inhabitants who were desirous to return to France, and who under the several Capitulations were permitted to do so, and to remove or dispose of their property within a certain assigned period.

He paid for these Goods in Bills of Exchange drawn upon his Correspondents in France, payable in two or three years, at such places in France as were most convenient to the respective venders of the goods or lands.

The Goods were shipped to these Correspondents by Father Lavallette under a Neutral Flag, and it was expected that they would furnish