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DRAFT OF BILL

Proposed by Mr. Wilson to be submitted to the Select Committee to which is referred the Bill to repeal so much of the Imperial Act 31 Geo. 3, cap. 31, as relates to Rectories and the presentation of Incumbents to the same, in place of the said Bill.

Printed by order of the Legislative Assembly.

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WHEREAS the recognition of legal equality among all Religious Denominations is an admitted principle of Colonial Legislation: And whereas in the state and condition of this Province, to which such a principle is peculiarly applicable, it is desirable that the same should receive the sanction of direct Legislative authority, recognizing and declaring the same as a fundamental principle of our civil polity:—Be it therefore declared and enacted, &c.

That the free exercise, and enjoyment of religious profession and worship, without discrimination or preference, so as the same be not made an excuse for acts of licentiousness, or a justification of practices inconsistent with the peace and safety of the Province is by the Constitution and Laws of this Province allowed to all Her Majesty's subjects within the same.

II. And whereas the provisions of the Act of the Imperial Parliament of Great Britain passed in the 31st year of the Reign of His late Majesty King Geo.3, intituled, "An Act, &c." whereby the erection of Parsonages or Rectories in this Province according to the establishment of the Church of England, the endowment of such Parsonages or Rectories out of the Clergy Reserves, and the presentation of Incumbents or Ministers to such Parsonages or Rectories, is vested in the Governor of this Province, have been found to give occasion to doubts and apprehensions which it is desirable should be removed by the repeal of the same under the power for that purpose vested in the Provincial Parliament by the provisions of the said Imperial Act; be it therefore further enacted, That the 38th, 39th, and 40th Sections of the said Act shall be and

the same are hereby repealed; and that from henceforth no Letters Patent shall be issued in this Province by the Crown for the erection of any such Parsonages or Rectories, or for the endowment thereof, out of the Clergy Reserves or the public domain, or for the presentation of any Incumbent or Minister to any such Parsonage or Rectory: Provided always, that neither such repeal nor any thing herein contained, shall in any wise affect any proceedings heretofore had, whereby certain Parsonages or Rectories were erected and endowed, or supposed to he erected and endowed by the authority aforesaid, or whereby certain Incumbents or Ministers were presented, or supposed to be presented, under the same authority, to such Parsonages or Rectories, or any of them, but the legality or illegality of all such proceedings shall be left open to be adjudicated upon and determined as if this Act had not been passed: And provided also, that nothing herein contained shall extend or be construed to extend to limit or in any way affect or interfere with the provisions of the 27th section of the Act of the Parliament of this Province, passed in the Session thereof held in the 4th and 5th years of Her Majesty's Reign, intituled " An Act for the disposal of Public Lands."

III. And be it enacted, That in the event of its being judicially decided that any of such Parsonages or Rectories were erected according to law, and until a judicial decision shall be obtained on such question, the right of presenting an Incumbent or Minister to such Parsonage or Rectory shall vest in, and be exercised by, the Church Society of the Church of England Diocese within which the same shall be situated, or in such other person or persons, bodies politic or corporate, as such Church Society by any by-law or by-laws to be by them from time to time passed for that purpose, shall or may think fit to direct or appoint in that behalf.