

DECLARATION of RIGHTS.

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33. That as it is the duty of every man to worship God in such manner as he thinks most acceptable to him, all persons professing the christian religion are equally entitled to protection in their religious liberty, wherefore no person ought by any law to be molested in his person or estate on account of his religious persuasion or profession, or for his religious practice, unless under colour of religion any man shall disturb the good order, peace, or safety of the state, or shall infringe the laws of morality, or injure others in their natural, civil or religious rights; nor ought any person to be compelled to frequent or maintain, or contribute, unless on contract, to maintain any particular place of worship, or any particular ministry; yet the legislature may in their discretion lay a general and equal tax for the support of the christian religion, leaving to each individual the power of appointing the payment over of the money collected from him, to the support of any particular place of worship or minister, or for the benefit of the poor of his own denomination, or the poor in general of any particular county; but the churches, chapels, glebes, and all other property now belonging to the church of England, ought to remain to the church of England for ever. And all acts of assembly lately passed for collecting monies for building or repairing particular churches or chapels of ease shall continue in force and be executed, unless the legislature shall by act supercede or repeal the same; but no county court shall assess any quantity of tobacco or sum of money hereafter on the application of any vestrymen or churchwardens: and every incumbent of the church of England who hath remained in his parish and performed his duty, shall be entitled to receive the provision and support established by the act entitled, "An act for the support of the clergy of the church of England in this province," till the November court of this present year, to be held for the county in which his parish shall lie, or partly lie, or for such time as he hath remained in his parish and performed his duty.

34. That every gift, sale, or devise of lands to any minister, public teacher or preacher of the gospel, as such, or to any religious sect, order or denomination, or to or for the support, use or benefit of, or in trust for, any minister, public teacher or preacher of the gospel, as such, or any religious sect, order or denomination; and every gift or sale of goods or chattels to go in succession, or to take place after the death of the seller or donor, or to or for such support, use or benefit;