

P A P E R S

RELATING TO

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC RELIGION

IN QUEBEC:

And, EXTRACTS from the Duke of *Manchester's* Commission and
Instructions, as Governor of *Jamaica*.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be printed,
25 May 1813.

(1.)—Extract of a MEMORIAL of the Dean and Chapter of Quebec ;
dated —

A Quebec il y a un Evêché en titre, un Chapitre et un Séminaire: c'étoit le Roi de France qui nommoit l'Evêque; on pourroit entretenir dorenavant un vicaire apostolique, ou Evêque *in partibus*, mais cet Evêque, soumis a une Puissance étrangère, & toujours dépendant d'elle pour l'exercice de sa charge, pourroit encore être suspect, et a causer quelque inquiétude; on en fait aussi le sacrifice, et l'on propose de faire elire l'Evêque par le Chapitre, comme c'étoit autrefois la coutume universelle, et comme ce l'est encore dans plusieurs Diocèses.

C'étoit le Roi de France qui pourvoyoit à la subsistence de l'Evêque et du Chapitre de Quebec; les nouveaux sujets du Roi D'Angleterre, n'imaginent seulement pas d'être à charge au Gouvernement Britannique sur cet article.

(2.)—Extract of a LETTER from the Earl of Egremont to Governor Murray; dated Whitehall, 13th August 1763.

THOUGH the King has, in the 4th Article of the Definitive Treaty, agreed to grant the "Liberty of the Catholic Religion to the Inhabitants of Canada;" and though His Majesty is far from entertaining the most distant thoughts of restraining "his new Roman Catholic subjects from professing the worship of their religion according to the rites of the Romish Church;" yet the condition expressed in the same article must always be remembered, viz. "as far as the Laws of Great Britain permit:" which Laws prohibit absolutely all Popish hierarchy in any of the dominions belonging to the Crown of Great Britain, and can only admit of a toleration of the exercise of that religion. This matter was clearly understood in the negociation of the Definitive Treaty. The French Ministers proposed to insert the words *comme ci devant*, in order that the Romish Religion should continue to be exercised in the same manner as under their Government; and they did not give up the point till they were plainly told that it would be deceiving them to admit those words, for the King had not the power to tolerate that religion in any other manner than "as far as the Laws of Great Britain permit." These Laws must be your guide in any disputes that may arise on this subject; but at the same time that I point out to you the necessity of adhering to them, and of attending with the utmost vigilance to the behaviour of the Priests, the King relies on your acting with all proper caution and prudence in regard to a matter of so delicate a nature as this of religion; and that you will, as far as you can consistently with your duty in the execution of the Laws and with the safety of the Country, avoid every thing that can give the least unnecessary alarm or disgust to His Majesty's new subjects.

(3.)—Extract of a LETTER from Governor Murray to the Earl of Shelburne, First Lord Commissioner of Trade; 14 Sept. 1763.

ON this errand the Vicar General of Montreal, Monsieur Montgolfier, sets out very shortly for Britain. What his schemes are I do not thoroughly understand, as he has never communicated them to me; that he aims at the mitre is certainly very probable; how unfit he is for that station, your Lordship may easily judge by the enclosed copy of a letter he had the assurance to write to a Mons. Houdin, at that time Chaplain to His Majesty's 48th Regiment, formerly a Recollet in this country. He pushed matters so far as to have the dead bodies of some soldiers taken up, because hereticks should not be interred in consecrated ground. Such behaviour could not fail of giving great disgust to the King's British subjects in these parts. If so haughty and imperious a priest, well related in France, is placed at the head of the church in this country, he may hereafter occasion much mischief, if ever he finds a proper opportunity to display his rancour and malice.

This Inclosure is not
with the Dispatch.

I must here take the liberty to repeat what I had the honour to inform your Lordship of in my former one of the 22d July, that Mons. Bryant, Vicar General of this Government, has constantly acted with a candour, moderation, and disinterestedness, which bespeak him a worthy honest man, and that I know none of his gown in the province so justly deserving of the Royal favour.

(4.)—Extract of a LETTER from Lieutenant Colonel Irving, to ——— dated Quebec, 7th July 1766.

THE arrival of Mons. Briant, the Bishop, and the King's additional instructions relative to the Juries, must have the very best effects on the minds of the new subjects, already well disposed towards the British Government; indeed they seem quite happy, and it is but doing them justice to say they deserve every indulgence consistent with our laws, for their pliability and obedience to the Government since the conquest.

(5.)—Copy of a LETTER from Lieutenant Governor Carlton, to the Earl of Shelburne; dated Quebec, 30th October 1767.

THE Abbé de Toncaire, whom I have mentioned to your Lordship more than once, being now returned to Europe, I think it my duty to lay before you all that I have been able to gather of his views and intentions in crossing the ocean.

A Canadian clergyman of abilities and knowledge of the world, who had resided 27 years in France, returning to this his native country after its submission to a foreign Power, was at first matter of surprise to me, awakened my suspicions of his errand, and engaged me to give great attention to his conduct.

He professed that his views were to see an aged mother, to assist his brother, who was involved in difficulties, and to settle other family matters, in which he has indeed been constantly busied, and has to my knowledge been extremely useful to his brother, who has lived too long in the savage world to be much acquainted with any other.

I have some reason however to believe, from the private intelligence I have been able to obtain, that he has not been altogether free of the ambition of wearing a mitre, if Government should acquiesce in the appointment of a Coadjutor to the See, for which they are here extremely pressing, and which would be attended with this good consequence, of the Bishops being always consecrated here, without sending to foreign dominions for that purpose.

As far as I can find in his negotiation with his brethren, he has not met with the encouragement he expected; and for this, indeed, I should think him, or any other person who has lived so long out of the country, an improper subject, as they reasonably may be suspected of attachments not altogether favourable to our interests.

They have likewise repeatedly applied for the approbation of Government to complete their Chapter, that out of that body and by their election for the future, the See may be filled. I have put them off from both these requests, by telling them I must be well informed of the merits and characters of the candidates, before I can venture to report or recommend such a measure at home.

Two parties have ever subsisted here among the clergy, though without much noise or eclat between the natives of old France and the Colonists, the former of which, before our arrival, had the preference in every thing. I apprehend that at present it would be judicious to throw what advantages there are into the hands of the natives of Canada.

Mr. De Toncaire is now gone home, he alleges, to settle his brother's affairs in England, as well as his own little concerns in France, and intends returning early in the spring after next, with the little wealth he is master of, to settle here for the remainder of his days.

I cannot but observe to your Lordship, how necessary it were to oblige any Priests who have an inclination to come over to this country, to furnish themselves with a passport from your office, in order to ensure their reception here; and at the same time that it proved a check to those who had not very good reasons for undertaking the voyage, it would create less disturbance, and not come so home to the Canadians, that the restraint which it is judged right to lay upon that intercourse should proceed from the other side of the water rather than from this, and that for reasons so obvious, I think it needless to trouble your Lordship further about the matter.

I have the honour to be,

(Signed) *Guy Carlton.*

(6.)—Extract of a LETTER from Lord Shelburne to Lieutenant Governor Carlton; dated Whitehall; 14 Nov. 1767.

IT has been represented to His Majesty that the Jesuits of Canada make large remittances to Italy, and that they imperceptibly diminish their effects for that purpose: you will therefore enquire into the truth of this report; and keep a watchful eye over them for the future. If the accounts we have received of their affairs be just, their annual rent amounts to near £. 4,000, and their effects and moveables are consequently estimated at more than £. 70,000. This account may be exaggerated; nevertheless, it is sufficient to prove that too much care cannot be taken that they do not embezzle an estate of which they enjoy only the life rent, and which must become, on their demise, a very considerable resource to the province, in case His Majesty should be pleased to cede it for that purpose.

As Pere Roubaud asserts the above state of the Jesuits affairs to be just, nay, to be moderately estimated, you may find him useful in investigating the truth of it. As this man is in the utmost want, and complains that he has received no allowance from the Jesuits since his being sent over here by General Murray, it is His Majesty's commands that you require these fathers to allow him a reasonable annuity from their funds, and pay him up the arrears; and you will afterwards judge whether it is fit that he should be retained in the province, or have leave to retire. His character is very dubious here; some representing him as a worthless, and others as an honest man. He is no doubt better known in the province of Quebec than here, and therefore you will judge what reception or degree of credit he merits. However, as he has abilities, has been employed both by General Murray and Lord Halifax, and has been found useful, he ought to receive some reward, and not be allowed to perish from indigence.

(7.)—Extract of a LETTER from Lord Hillsborough to the Lieutenant Governor of Quebec; dated Whitehall, 6 March 1768.

YOUR observations and informations relative to L'Abbé Toncaire, in your Letter, No. 15, will have due attention given to them; and when the consideration of the state of religion in Canada is taken up by the King's servants, which I trust will be very soon, I will not fail to state your opinion (in which I entirely agree) concerning a coadjutor. Your idea of giving every preference to the clergy, natives of Canada, before those of old France, is certainly very judicious, and in my opinion, if it could be done in such a manner as to give disgust to the latter, it might be of advantage. It will certainly be right to discourage the introduction of foreign priests, and it may, in my opinion, be done in such a mode as to be popular and pleasing to the Romish clergy in that province; but as to any measures to be taken thereupon at present, I must leave them entirely to your discretion, till I shall be authorized to signify His Majesty's pleasure with regard to a regulation of religion in general, in which it will be for consideration whether such introduction should not be prohibited under severe penalties.

(8.)—Extract of a LETTER from Lieutenant Governor Cramahé to the Earl of Hillsborough; dated Quebec, 25 July 1772.

THE Canadian Clergy are strongly interested to prevent any change; they begin to see it; and it appears more than ever necessary, as much as possible, to encourage this disposition: It was in this view, that the Bishop having lately obtained the requisite powers for consecrating the coadjutor, whom Governor Carlton had pitched upon, I agreed to his performing that ceremony, but in a private way, because it was not the act of Government, and to avoid giving a handle to busy and troublesome people. It is to be hoped that this event, as well as young Mr. Lanaudiere's preferment, will be attended with very salutary effects for the King's interests in this province.

(9.)—Extract of a LETTER from Lord Dartmouth to Lieutenant Governor Cramahé; dated Whitehall, 2d September 1772.

YOUR having permitted the person styling himself Bishop of Quebec, to consecrate a coadjutor, in consequence of powers which you say he had received for that purpose, and which, I presume, must therefore mean from some Foreign Ecclesiastical Authority, appears to me to be a matter of the highest importance, and the more so as I do not find, upon the fullest examination, that any authority whatever has at any time been given by His Majesty for the exercise, within the colony, of any powers of Episcopacy in matters relative to the religion of the Church of Rome.

In this view therefore of that measure, it seems to me of a nature that will require the most serious consideration; and as every thing that concerns the state of Quebec, with regard as well to its Civil as to its Ecclesiastical Constitution, is now in deliberation at the Privy Council, I shall accordingly receive His Majesty's commands to lay before that Board such parts of your secret dispatch of the 25th July as relate to that proceeding.

(10.)—Extract of a LETTER from Lord Dartmouth to Lieutenant Governor Cramahé; dated Whitehall, 9 Dec. 1772.

SINCE my Letter to you of the 4th ult. I have not failed to give the fullest consideration to what you mentioned in your secret Dispatch of 25 July last, with regard to the appointment, with your approbation, of a person under the name of Coadjutor, to assist in the performance of episcopal functions in the Romish Church in Quebec.

I have already acquainted you that the state of the colony, in whatever regards its civil constitution, and the arrangements which have hitherto been made, or may be further necessary, is now before the Privy Council, who will I doubt not very shortly submit to His Majesty their advice and opinion thereupon; and more especially with regard to what concerns the toleration of the religion of the Church of Rome, and the establishments incident thereto. In this situation, therefore, it would ill become me, unacquainted as I am with any of the regulations which have been made or indulgences allowed, respecting this important matter, to give any countenance or encouragements to establishments or arrangements, of what nature soever, concerning the religion of the Romish Church in Quebec; much less can I warrant the exercise of any episcopal powers in that colony, which I do not find, upon the fullest enquiry, have at any time been authorized by instructions from His Majesty.

At the same time I do not take upon me, as I stand at present uninformed upon the subject, to say that the admission of some episcopal authority, under proper restrictions, may not be necessary to that toleration of the religion of the Church of Rome, which the King, reserving to himself his Royal supremacy, has been graciously pleased to allow.—That is a question that must remain for the consideration of the Privy Council, whose determination, as well on this as on every other arrangement respecting the state of ecclesiastical affairs in Quebec, will in a great measure depend upon such informations as have been and still may be received from the servants of the crown in the colony, and such lights as can be collected from those who have been in chief command there. And I should do injustice both to their merit and to yours, if I did not add, that it appears to me that whatever indulgences have been allowed to the Canadian subjects, they have been granted to them with no other view than to conciliate their affections, and to create that attachment to and dependance on the British Government, upon which the safety and prosperity of the colony depend.

(11.)—Extract of a LETTER from Lieutenant Governor Cramahé to the Earl of Dartmouth; dated Quebec, 22d June 1773.

IT has ever been my opinion, I own, that the only sure and effectual method of gaining the affections of His Majesty's Canadian subjects to his Royal Person and Government, was, to grant them all possible freedom and indulgence in the exercise of their religion, to which they are exceedingly attached; and that any restraint laid
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upon them in regard to this, would only retard, instead of advancing a change of their ideas respecting religious matters. By degrees the old priests drop off, and a few years will furnish the province with a clergy entirely Canadian. This could not be effected without some person here exercising episcopal functions; and the allowance of a coadjutor will prevent the bishop being obliged to cross the seas for consecration, and holding personal communication with those who may not possess the most friendly dispositions for the British interests.

(12.)—Extract of a LETTER from Lord Dartmouth to Lieutenant Governor Cramahé; dated Whitehall, 1st December 1773.

YOU may be assured that I will not fail in this consideration, to urge the justice and expediency of giving all possible satisfaction to the new subjects, on the head of religion; and to endeavour that the arrangements with regard to that important part of their interests on such a foundation, that all foreign jurisdiction be excluded, and that those professing the religion of the church of Rome, may find within the colony a resource for every thing essential to the free exercise of it, in the true spirit of the treaty.

(13.)—Extract from the Duke of Manchester's Commission, as Governor of Jamaica; dated the 13th day of November 1807.

AND we do by these presents authorize and empower you to collate any person or persons to any churches, chapels, or other ecclesiastical benefices within our said island and territories, as often as any of them shall happen to be void.

(14.)—Extract from the Duke of Manchester's Instructions, as Governor of Jamaica; dated 14th day of November 1807.

(Clause 61.)—IT being our intention that all persons inhabiting our Island under your government, should have full liberty of conscience, and the free exercise of all such modes of religious worship as are not prohibited by law; we do hereby require you to permit all persons within our said Island to have such liberty, and to exercise such modes of religious worship as are not prohibited by law; provided they be contented with a quiet and peaceable enjoyment of the same, not giving offence or scandal to the Government.

62. You shall take especial care that God Almighty be devoutly and duly served throughout your government, the Book of Common Prayer (as by law established,) read each Sunday and Holiday, and the Blessed Sacrament administered according to the rites of the Church of England. You shall be careful that the churches already built, be well and orderly kept, and that others be built as the Island shall (by God's blessing) be improved; and that, besides a competent maintenance to be assigned to the Minister of each orthodox church, a convenient house be built at the common charge for each Minister, and a competent proportion of land assigned him for a glebe and exercise of his industry; and you are to take care that the parishes be so limited and settled as you shall find most convenient for the accomplishing of this good work.

63. You are not to prefer any Minister to any Ecclesiastical Benefice in the said Island without a certificate from the Right Reverend Father in God the Lord Bishop of London, of his being conformable to the doctrine and discipline of the Church of England, and of a good life and conversation; and if any person already preferred to a Benefice shall appear to you to give scandal, either by his doctrine or manners, you are to use the best means for the removal of him.

64. You are to give orders forthwith (if the same be not already done) that every orthodox Minister within your government be one of the vestry; and that no vestry be held without him, except in case of sickness, or that after notice of a vestry summoned he omit to come.

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65. You are to enquire whether there be any Minister within your government who preaches and administers the Sacrament in any orthodox church or chapel without being in due Orders, and to give an account thereof to the said Bishop of London.

66. We do further direct that no Schoolmaster be henceforth permitted to come from this Kingdom and to keep a school in the Island without the license of the said Bishop of London; and that no other person now being at the Island, or that shall come from other parts, be admitted to keep school without your license first obtained.

67. And to the end the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the said Lord Bishop of London may take place in the Island, so far as conveniently may be it is our will and pleasure that you give all countenance and due encouragement to the said Bishop of London, or his Commissaries, in the legal exercise of such ecclesiastical jurisdiction, excepting only the collating to Benefices, granting licenses for marriages, and probates of wills, which we have reserved to you our Governor, and to the Commander in Chief of our said Island for the time being.

68. And whereas doubts have arisen whether the afore-mentioned powers of collating to Benefices, granting licences for marriages, and probates of wills, commonly called the Office of Ordinary, which we have reserved to you our Governor as aforesaid, can be exercised by deputation from you to any other person within our aforesaid Island under your government; it is our express will and pleasure and you are hereby directed and required not to grant Deputations for the exercise of the said powers, commonly called the Office of Ordinary, to any person or persons whatsoever in our said Island under your government.

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