

6-7 EDWARD VII., A. 1907

vested in His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, to be applied to such public uses, as shall from time to time be thought best for the interest and advantage of the Colony, reserving to the present members of that community respectively during their Lives such pension, as shall be equal to the share each personally now receives of that Revenue.

Secondly, That the Chapter of Quebec, consisting of a Dean and twelve Canons, be also abolished.

Thirdly, That the office of Provincial Commissary of the Recollects be also abolished; and that Community not allowed to admit any new Fathers, or Brethren; and that their Revenues be vested in His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, for the public uses of the Colony, in such sort, that it shall be applicable by the Crown to such uses, in proportion as the present members die, or are presented to Vacant Cures; so that, when the whole community shall by such events be dissolved, their Lands and Tenements will become a Fund in the hands of the Crown for the purposes aforesaid.

Fourthly, That the Seminaries of Quebec and Montreal be consolidated at Quebec under one Superior, in order to provide a succession of Pastors to the several Parishes; but that the members, admitted in order to become Priests, be limited to a certain number; and that the Revenues be vested in His Majesty, His Heirs and successors, to be applied as the Crown shall think fit for the support of such Seminary, and for other public uses within the Colony.

Fifthly, That no new Professions, Engagements, or Admissions be allowed in the convents or Religious Communities of Women; and that their Revenues, as they decrease in number, be in like manner vested in His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, for the public uses of the Colony.

This, My Lords, is, we humbly conceive, the only reform in respect to Ecclesiastical Establishments in the Colony of Quebec, necessary to be provided for, and carried into execution by Legislative Authority, as affecting rights and property, which, as His Majesty's Law-Servants justly observe, are not subject to the controul of the single Authority of the Crown.

As to His Majesty's Supremacy in Ecclesiastical Cases, in absolute exclusion of all foreign power or jurisdiction whatever, it is, we humbly apprehend, a Right, and Prerogative, which, by the principles of this Government, as by Law declared, is inherent in, and inseparable from the Crown in all parts of the British Dominions; and therefore is already a part of the Constitution of this Colony: it may not however be improper, in order to remove all doubts or mistakes in a matter of so much importance, to refer to it as such in the preamble of the Law, that shall be passed for the reform above-mentioned; which will, we apprehend, be a very sufficient, and not an improper promulgation to His Majesty's New subjects of this fundamental part of the constitution of that Government, to which they are now become subject, and will be a full and sufficient warning to them