

6-7 EDWARD VII., A. 1907

we have done nothing to Gain one man in the province, by making it his private interest to remain the King's Subject; and that the interests of many would be greatly promoted by a revolution; I own, my not having discovered a treasonable correspondence, never was proof sufficient to convince me, it did not exist in some degree, but I am inclined to think, if such a message has been sent, very few were entrusted with the secret. perhaps the Court of france, informed a year past by Mons^r de Chatelet, that the King purposed raising a Regiment of His new subjects, caused this piece of intelligence to be communicated, to create a jealousy of the Canadians, and prevent a measure that might fix their attachments to the Brittish government, and probably, of those Savages who have always acted with them: however that be, on receiving this news from france last Spring, most of the Gentlemen in the province applied to me, and begged to be admitted into the King's Service, assuring me they would take every opportunity to testify their zeal, and gratitude for so great a mark of favour & tenderness, extended, not only to them, but to their posterity.

When I consider further; that the Kings dominion here is maintained here but by a few troops, necessarily dispersed, without a place of security for their magazines, for their Arms, or for themselves; amidst a numerous military people, the Gentlemen all Officers of experience, poor, without hopes that they or their descendants will be admitted into the service of their present Sovereign, I can have no doubt that france, as soon as determined to begin a war will attempt to regain Canada, should it be intended only to make a diversion, while it may reasonably be undertaken with little hazard, should it fail, and where so much may be gained, should it succeed. But should france begin a War in hopes the Brittish-colonies will push matters to extremities, and she adopts the project of supporting them in their independent notions, Canada, probably, will then become the Principal scene, where the fate of America may be determined. Affairs in this situation, Canada in the hands of france would no longer present itself as an enemy to the Brittish colonies, but as an ally, a friend, and a protector of their Independency. Your Lordship must immediately perceive the many disadvantages Great Britain would labour under in a war of this nature; and on the other hand, how greatly Canada might for ever Support the Brittish interests on this Continent, for it is not united in any common principle, interest, or wish with the other Provinces, in opposition to the Supreme-seat of Government, was the King's dominion over it only strengthened by a Cittadel, which a few national troops might secure, and the natives attached, by making it their interest to remain His Subjects.

My letters to the Earl of Shelburne No— 20, 23, 24, 25, & 26,¹ contain more fully my humble opinion of the measures necessary to obtain this de-

¹ For Nos. 20, 23 & 26, see pp. 281, 288, 294. No. 24 is 'Carleton to Shelburne' Jan. 18th, 1768, enclosing Minutes of Council from Oct. 1st to Dec. 31st, 1767. See Q 5-1, p. 351. No. 25 is 'Carleton to Shelburne,' Jan. 19th, 1768, enclosing petition of merchants with reference to bankruptcy law. See Q 5-1, p. 365.