

desire to adopt them into our union as a sister colony, and to secure the same general system of mild and equal laws for them and for ourselves, with only such local differences as may be agreeable to each colony respectively.

“Assure the people of Canada that we have no apprehension that the French will take any active part with Great Britain; but that it is their interest, and we have reason to believe their inclination, to cultivate a friendly intercourse with these colonies.

“You are from this and from such other reasons as may appear most proper, to urge the necessity the people are under of immediately taking some decisive step to put themselves under the protection of the United Colonies. For expediting such a measure you are to explain our method of collecting the sense of the people and conducting our affairs regularly by Committees of Observation and Inspection in the several districts, and by Conventions and Committees of Safety in the several colonies. Recommend these modes to them. Explain to them the nature and principles of government among freemen; developing in contrast to those, the base, cruel, and insidious designs involved in the late Act of Parliament for making a more effectual provision for the government of the Province of Quebec. Endeavour to stimulate them by notions of glory as well as interest, to assume a part in a contest by which they must be deeply affected; and to aspire to a portion of that power by which they must be ruled; and not to remain the mere spoil and prey of conquerors and lords.

“You are further to declare that we hold sacred the rights of conscience, and may promise to the whole people solemnly in our name, the free and uninterrupted exercise of their religion, and to the clergy the full, perfect, and peaceable possession and enjoyment of all their estates; that the government of every thing relating to their religion and clergy shall be left entirely in the hands of the good people of that Province, and such legislation as they shall constitute, provided, however, that all other denominations of christians be equally entitled to hold offices and enjoy civil privileges and the free exercise of their religion, and be totally exempt from the payment of any tithes or taxes for the support of any religion.

“Inform them that you are vested with full powers to effect these purposes; and therefore press them to have a full representation of the people assembled in convention with all proper expedition, to deliberate concerning the establishment of a form of government and an union with the United Colonies. As to the terms of union, insist on the propriety of their being similar to those on which the other colonies unite. Should they object to this, report to this Congress the objections, and the terms on which alone they will come into our union. Should they agree to our terms, you are to