

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 18

(Translation.)

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THE VERY HUMBLE ADDRESS OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC
CITIZENS AND INHABITANTS OF DIFFERENT CONDITIONS
IN THE PROVINCE OF QUEBEC IN CANADA

TO THE KING.

Sire,

The Favours which it has pleased Your Royal and Generous Heart to heap upon Your faithful and loyal Canadian Subjects, the present illconsidered Measures of Your Ancient Subjects resident in our Province, and the small Number of New Subjects who have joined them, make us hope that Your Most Gracious Majesty will allow us to kneel down at the Foot of your Throne to implore Your Benevolence and Your Justice.

In the Addresses which we have taken the Liberty of transmitting to Your Majesty, Two points have the unanimous Consent of our Fellow-citizens. The Religion of our Forefathers was for Your new Subjects, as to every People in the World, the essential Point of our Petitions. Animated by that Confidence with which the Generosity of our Sovereign inspired us, we hoped, and still hope that Your Majesty will grant us the necessary Means for perpetuating it in our Colony. We are, Most Gracious Sovereign, in most urgent need of Priests to carry on the work of the Seminaries and Missions of our Province ; Directors and Professors of this Class, and indeed of any other are lacking. Our Colleges are deserted; from this want arises Ignorance, and from Ignorance Moral Depravity. Submissive and loyal, this People hope to receive from Your Royal Clemency, Permission to bring from Europe, Persons of this Class.

The second Object, Most Gracious Sovereign, was that under whatever Form of Government might seem best to Your Majesty to establish in this Province, Your Catholic Canadian Subjects, without distinction, might enjoy all the Privileges, Immunities, and Prerogatives, enjoyed by British Subjects in all those Parts of the Globe, which are under Your Sway.

From this second Object follows our most earnest Desire to see in the Legislative Council of our Province a larger Number of Your New Catholic Subjects in proportion to their numbers; Persons experienced in our Customs, who being naturally better acquainted with our Municipal Laws, would more effectually impress on us the Advantages resulting from the Royal Instructions of Your Majesty, who has granted them to us.

An Infant Colony, a People very imperfectly acquainted with the British Laws and Constitution does not feel that it ought, without due consideration, to ask for Laws and Customs as yet unknown to it ; it ought, on the contrary, and such is the opinion of Your Petitioners, to cast itself entirely on the Goodness of its August Sovereign, who can best form the Government