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no means of disabusing them. I am certain that if I were to dismiss every officer against whom information has been given me, I should change one-third of the militia of the Province. Unfortunately, my Lord, the great source of not only the most extensive but also of the most powerful and useful influence, is in the hands of an individual, who is himself, as I am assured, (and that from no bad authority), at this moment a suffragan of an Archbishopal See in France. I have already adverted to the power exercised by the Bishop in the appointment and removal at pleasure of the Clergy of this Province.

Upon a careful enquiry into the subject, I find that, previous to the conquest, the Bishop did exercise the right of appointment. In the year 1667 a Royal Edict gave the right of patronage to the Seigneurs or founders of the Church; but a subsequent Edict of the year 1699 gave it to the Bishops; but, in order to render this matter more clear, I shall enclose a memorandum given me on the subject by the Chief Justice.

His Majesty's right to the nomination is clear and incontestable. So much so, that were a *habitant* to refuse to pay his tythes, the church might excommunicate him, but *for want of that nomination, it is held, that the Curé could not in any of His Majesty's Courts of Law compel him to pay.* The resumption of this right, appears to me, to be *indispensable*, to any hope that may be entertained of retaining the dominion of the Colony, and *this I confess seems to me to be the moment for effecting that resumption.* It may be accomplished now; twenty years hence it will be more difficult, if not impracticable, but the truth is, **THE DANGER PRESSES.** This influence is universally believed, and *I believe it myself to be now silently working against us.* I do not know that the proposed change would turn its current, but I am sure, it would lessen the force of it very much.