

dians, who were accustomed to taxation under the French Government prior to the conquest of 1759, did not object to the Stamp Act. But it is not to the absence of representatives from Canada that I desire to call attention, but rather to the objections taken by the Congress to the concessions made by Great Britain to the French-Canadians in the Quebec Act of 1774. After reciting the grievances from which the colonists suffered under the misgovernment of His Majesty's Ministers the Congress denounced the concessions made to the French-Canadians already referred to, but more especially to the provisions of the Quebec Act of 1774. This Act was characterized as an Act "which recognized the Catholic religion, abolished the equitable jurisdiction of England and, ignoring the antagonistic faith of the old colonies, their laws and government, set up civil and spiritual tyranny in Canada to the great danger of the neighboring provinces which had so much aided Britain to conquer our country. Nor can we suppress our astonishment that a British Parliament should ever consent to establish in that colony a religion that often drenched your island in blood and disseminated impiety, bigotry, persecution, murder and rebellion throughout every part of the world."

This was the fly in the pot of ointment. The denunciation of the privileges conceded to the French-Canadians, and particularly their religion in such specific and forcible terms, could not fail to restrain any desire they might have to throw off their allegiance to Great Britain. On the one hand, they had the guarantee of perfect security in the enjoyment of their civil and religious rights by a solemn treaty subsequently embodied in an Act of the British Parliament; on the other hand, they were called to engage in a revolt against British authority, the results of which were, to say the least, uncertain, and against a system of taxation the constitutional incidence of which gave them no concern. Between the privileges they enjoyed, to which the honor of the British Government was pledged, and the doubtful results of revolt, the choice they made was not to be greatly wondered at. Under the British flag they had some assurance that their religion and their laws would be respected; under the flag of the thirteen colonies, both their religion and their laws were declared to be incompatible with the progress of civilization and good government. In all other respects their sympathy would naturally be with the revolutionary party, if it were only as a relief from the sovereignty of Great Britain which was forced upon them by the capture of Quebec; and had they joined