

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 18

LT. GOVERNOR CRAMAHÉ'S REPLY.¹

Gentlemen

The Subject of your Petition is a Matter of too much Importance, for His Majesty's Council here to advise, or me to determine, upon, at a Time, that, from the best Information, the Affairs of this Province are likely to become an Object of Public Regulation ; The Petitions and my Answer shall be transmitted by the first Opportunity to His Majesty's Secretary of State.

(Signed) H. T. CRAMAHÉ

Quebec 11th Dec^r 1773.

PETITION TO THE KING.

TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.²

The humble Petition of the Subscribers your Majesty's antient Subjects, Freeholders, Merchants and Planters in the Province of Quebec in North America.

Most humbly.

Sheweth.

That Whereas your Majesty by your royal Proclamation bearing Date at St. James's the seventh Day of October One thousand seven Hundred and Sixty Three was most graciously pleased to publish and declare "That "out of your Majesty's paternal Care for the Security of the Liberty and "Properties of those who then were or should thereafter become Inhabitants "of the four several Governments therein mentioned (of which this your "Majesty's Province was denominated to be one) Your Majesty had in the "Letters Patent by which the said Governments were constituted given express "power and Direction to your Governors, That so soon as the State and "Circumstances of those Governments would admit of it, they should with "the Advice of the Members of your Majesty's Councils, summon and call "General Assemblies within the said Governments respectively, in such "Manner and Form as is used and directed in those Colonies and Provinces "in America which are under Your Majesty's immediate Government. "And also that your Majesty had been graciously pleased to give Power "to your said Governors with the Consent of your Majesty's said Councils "and the Representatives of the People, so to be summoned as aforesaid,

¹ This reply was framed and authorized by the Governor in Council, Dec. 11th, 1773. See Q 10, p. 38.

² The Lt. Governor having, as anticipated, declined to grant the petition for an Assembly, the Committees of Quebec and Montreal prepared their petition to the King, as given here. Canadian Archives, Q 10, p. 46. In the letter of Cramahé to Dartmouth, Jan. 19th, 1774, which accompanies this petition, he says that he suspects they have sent a duplicate of it to Maseres. Q 10, p. 43. The Committees evidently had some doubts as to their petitions to the King reaching their destination if presented through the official channels only, for, as Cramahé had suspected, they sent copies of these to Maseres, then in London, to be presented through the Colonial Secretary. They had also written to their mercantile associates in London to solicit their assistance in presenting their case before the proper authorities. This correspondence is given in Maseres' "An Account of the Proceedings" &c., p. 29.