

- ‘ of ^{the} the seigniories in the province, and
- ‘ almost all the lands of the other tenure, or
- ‘ which are holden by rent-service.

‘ Fr. Simonnet, &c. &c.’

It is easy to see that the foregoing petition of the aforesaid French inhabitants of Canada has been made the foundation of the act of parliament above-recited. But there is reason to think that this petition is by no means agreeable to the general sense of the body of the Canadians, notwithstanding it pretends to be so. For, in the first place, it may be observed, that the number of names to this petition is only sixty-five, which is a much smaller number than those which were signed to the petition of the English for an assembly, which were 148. And to make up this number of sixty-five names, some of the petitioners have made their children sign it, who were either young men under twenty-one years of age, or lads of fifteen or sixteen, or younger, at the seminary of Quebeck. Of this kind are, as I am informed, Mr. Peter Panet, the son, and Mr. St. Ours, the son, the latter of whom was born in the year 1760, a month or two after the surrender of the country to Sir Jeffery Amherst, and therefore was, at the time of signing this petition, about 13 years of

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age.