

poor Micmaks of Pomket and Shebenecady? Our mind was stroke by the multiplicity of their wants and our heart broken by their groans. In vain did we try every means within our reach to afford the spiritual help they so earnestly longed for. We were disappointed in all our measures. *The little ones have asked for bread, and there was none to break it unto them* (Lament. 4. 4.).

Now, OUR DEAR BRETHREN, although tied to you by the sacred bands which unite a pastor to his flock, we felt sensible long ago that you could not ever remain a part of as extensive a Diocese as that of Quebec. Even from the year 1806, the first one of our Episcopacy, we applied to the Holy See on that account, and with much eagerness we lately resigned to it, without reserve, the whole of our Episcopal jurisdiction on your Peninsula. It has been pleased the Sovereign Pontiff, whose paternal care spreads itself over all the churches in the world, to yield to our remonstrances, to discharge us from that Province, to erect it into an Apostolical Vicarship and intrust the care of the same to the Right Revd. Doctor EDMUND BURKE, appointed Titular Bishop of Sion. It is he, therefore, who succeeds us as your Chief Pastor. To him is now committed the management of your souls. From his hands henceforward your children are to receive the sacrament of Confirmation and your Clergy the sacred unction and the power both of announcing you the truths of the Gospel and of administering the sacraments of the Church. You shall acknowledge for your missionaries those only who will be appointed by him, and whenever he will deem proper to dismiss any of them, it shall be unlawful for you to keep them as such or to make use of their ministry.

The unavoidable bitterness we feel, OUR DEAR BRETHREN, at our parting with you, is, in a great measure, softened, when we consider that in becoming the flock of the Most Revd. Bishop of Sion, you acquire for your Pastor a man who rendered himself commendable to all the Catholic Church by a number of learned and luminous treatises written in the defense of the wholesome doctrine; a man whose affection is warranted you by the kindness of his heart as well as by a dwelling of more than sixteen years in your Capital. We entertain the flattering hope that you'll do every thing in your power to alleviate him the painful burthen of the Episcopacy. In the mean time w'll never cease to pray the Father of Mercies that you may steadfastly persevere in his peace and in the love of our LORD JESUS-CHRIST.

Given at Quebec under our hand and seal and the counter-sign of our Secretary, the fifteenth day of January in the year one thousand eight hundred and eighteen.

✠ J. O. CATH. BISHOP OF QUEBEC.

By His LORDSHIP'S COMMAND,

P. F. TURGEON, Priest and Secretary.