

these two Statutes the privileges of the Roman Catholics in this Province solely depend.

Therefore it is unnecessary to have recourse to the opinions of Sir William Blackstone, or any other writer on the subject. The Statutes to which I refer you, are so plainly worded, that whoever reads them cannot fail to comprehend their full meaning. Permit me to add for your information, that at the time this relaxation took place, I was a Member of the General Assembly, and draughted both the Laws to which I have referred you: And be assured that when these Acts were passed, no man had an idea that they were to pave the way to establish the Hierarchy of the Church of Rome in this Province; or that a Roman Catholic Bishop of Quebec would be thereby authorised to assume the exercise of any Ecclesiastical Authority in this country, either by himself, his Vicar General, or Missionaries.

It is my duty to tell you, that there are no such authorities recognised by the Law of this Province. Whoever officiates as a Minister of the Church of Rome, depends entirely on his Congregation. He is not their Minister until they choose him, and he ceases to be their Minister when they disapprove of him unless the existing agreement between the parties has otherwise provided.

What the spiritual rights of the Ministers of the Church of Rome are, may very properly be the subject of investigation in the countries where that Church is established in the plenitude of its power.—But we have nothing to do with those things, in this Province: There

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