

*THE MUTILATION OF THE BUST OF
GEORGE III.*

A bust of George III., which had been erected several years in the city of Montreal, was on 1st May, 1775, daubed over, by some ill-disposed persons, with black, and a cross was suspended from it, ornamented with a mitre and a string of beads; under it were written these opprobrious words: "*Voici le Pape du Canada, et le Sot des Anglicans..*" This act was seditious and deserving of punishment, and though a reward of 100 guineas was offered, the perpetrators of this wicked act were never discovered. (See Smith's "History of Canada.")

The head, attached to a plaster bust, is preserved in the rooms of the Natural History Society.

The following appeared in *The Remembrancer*, published in London in 1776:—

"The act was undoubtedly deserving of punishment; but it was not, and few Englishmen will think it ought to have been, regarded as a capital crime. However, it seems that M. de Bellestre, a French gentleman of the province of Quebec, and one of the new members of the legislative council established in it, was of a different opinion—for, as the people were gathered together on the next day to hear a proclamation made of a reward for the discovery of the persons who had committed this offence (which reward was no less than 100 guineas, which the English inhabitants of Montreal had individually subscribed at a general meeting, and which was proclaimed by beat of drum at the head of the grenadiers of the 26th Regiment), this very loyal French gentleman said that 'he would give £100 out of his own pocket to find out the persons who had done this, and see them severely punished and sent out of the province; for that they deserved to be hanged, and if they were in England would be so.'

"Upon hearing this severe opinion, a young English merchant, of the name of Franks, and who at that time