

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 18

that The King is persuaded this appointment will be received by His new subjects as a singular mark of His Majesty's Royal attention to their Welfare & Happiness.

The necessary Commission & Instructions for you, on this occasion, which are preparing by the Board of Trade with all Dispatch, will be forwarded to you as soon as possible, and as they will contain very full Directions, not only with regard to the Form of Government to be established in Canada, but to your Conduct in every particular; I have no new Orders to transmit to you at present; But His Majesty thinks it very material, that you should be apprized, that He has received Intelligence, which give some reason to suspect, that the French may be disposed to avail Themselves of the Liberty of the Catholick Religion granted to the Inhabitants of Canada, in order to keep up their Connection with France, and, by means of the Priests, to preserve such an Influence over the Canadians, as may induce them to join, whenever Opportunity should offer, in any attempts to recover that Country; It therefore becomes of the utmost Consequence to watch the Priests very narrowly, and to remove, as soon as possible, any of them, who shall attempt to go out of their sphere, and who shall busy themselves in any civil matters: For tho' The King has, in the 4th Article of the Definitive Treaty, *agreed to grant the Liberty of the Catholick Religion to the Inhabitants of Canada*; and tho' His Majesty is far from entertaining the most distant thought of restraining *His new Roman Catholick Subjects from professing the Worship of their Religion according to the Rites of the Romish Church*: Yet the Condition, expressed in the same Article, must always be remembered, viz^t: *As far as the Laws of Great Britain permit*, which Laws prohibit absolutely all Popish Hierarchy in any of the Dominions belonging to the Crown of Great Britain, and can only admit of a Toleration of the Exercise of that Religion; This matter was clearly understood in the Negotiation of the Definitive Treaty; The French Ministers proposed to insert the Words, *comme ci-devant*, in order that the Romish Religion should continue to be exercised in the same manner as under their Government; and they did not give up the Point, 'till they were plainly told that it would be deceiving them to admit those Words, for The King had not the Power to tolerate that Religion in any other Manner, than *as far as the Laws of Great Britain permit*: These Laws must be your guide in any Disputes that may arise on this Subject; But, at the same Time, that I point out to you the necessity of adhering to Them, and of attending with the utmost Vigilance to the Behaviour of the Priests, The King relies on your acting with all proper Caution & Prudence in regard to a matter of so delicate a Nature as this of Religion; And that you will, as far as you can, consistently with your Duty in the Execution of the Laws, & with the Safety of the Country, avoid every Thing that can give the least unnecessary Alarm, or Disgust, to His Majesty's new Subjects.

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I am &c

Endorsed: Dra^t to Governor Murray
Aug^t 13th 1763.

EGREMONT.