

of renovating the social condition of nearly all the inhabitants of this Lower Province—a mode of solution which, at the same time that it conciliates jarring interests, can operate without violating the laws of justice.

Agriculture alone, however great its importance may be, would perhaps have failed for a long time in drawing the attention of the public to those powerful means of regeneration, and in disposing it to receive favourably a plan as vast in its consequences and its results as that which I submit. But the Seigniorial Tenure, the abolition of which can no longer be delayed, would become a source of incalculable prosperity, should it be the means of bringing those powerful means of regeneration into play.

The question of the abolition of the Seigniorial Tenure, considered with regard to the mode of solving it in the above light, ceases to be the cause of the Censitaires alone, and becomes the cause of all those interested in the welfare and prosperity of their country of all those who truly consider agriculture to be the most solid foundation of the wealth of a nation.

You, Messrs. the President and Directors, who direct your studies more especially to agriculture, will set a greater value than would many others on this new agent of agricultural progress, and I trust that, like myself, you will see that such an agent exists in the formation of Financial Institutions which place at the reach of the farmer capital and funds which he can return and reimburse with facility and ease. You can understand what vigorous impulse agriculture can receive from the establishment of such Institutions which the Seigniorial Tenure question is alone sufficiently powerful to create in this country. Agriculture indispensably requires this new source of strength, this new nerve; and if the abolition of the Seigniorial Tenure should be the cause of it, let us take advantage of it and thank God that an antiquated and *fated* institution should