

action in the matter, the following statement has been prepared for circulation by request of the Protestant Defence Association, and is believed to give a correct representation of the questions involved, as between the Indians and those who should have been their protectors, but have become their oppressors.

In the early part of the last century the priests of the Seminary had a mission of Christian Indians, chiefly from the Iroquois and Algonquin tribes, on the Island of Montreal; but, judging it better to be farther removed from the white people, they applied to the King of France for the seigniory of the Lake of Two Mountains, to which they undertook to remove the Indians, and, by the building of a fort, to take the necessary precautions for their protection. They obtained the grant of the seigniory, as desired, in 1718; and it is to be observed that this grant was not to the Sulpicians as such, but in the capacity of missionaries to the Indians, who were at the time recognized as a distinct nationality, and as valuable allies of the French people and government. Subsequently, in 1735, they asked for and obtained an adjoining seigniory, stating, as reasons for their application, that the first grant had not remunerated them for their outlay, and that the Indians needed considerable space to range through, doubtless referring to their desire for hunting. This second application was successful, but they were obviously installed as seigniors with special reference to their mission to these Indians.

After the conquest of Canada, the purpose was entertained by the British Government to confiscate all the properties held by the Sulpicians, the Recollets and the Jesuits; and the Receiver-General was directed to have schedules drawn up of the landed estates of these religious communities, that they should not be transferred, or by sequestration or alienation be lost to the crown. The object was to make of them a fund for the purposes of education generally; though there is no reason to believe that it was intended to dispossess the Indians of the lands held by them. This would have been altogether contrary