
20th September, 1853.

MY DEAR BRETHREN,

The date affixed to this letter indicates the time at which I first roughly threw together the heads of the materials of which it is to be composed. I was then far distant from Quebec, in the midst of my late journeyings in the regions of the Gulph, but having received intelligence of the defeat, in the House of Commons, (at least for the Session) of the Bill mentioned in the title page of this letter, I judged that the time was come,—since the affair which had been the object of my visit to England was brought to an issue,—to render to my Clergy and their Congregations, some statements for which they might naturally be looking at my hands.

I have been rather slow in the execution of the task, since I began it; * for having been, altogether, eight months absent from Quebec this year, it may be conceived that I have been a good deal pressed by an accumulation of official business and correspondence.

It may not be improper that I should, in the first place, state once more, some particulars connected with my visit to England, which have been already noticed in my Pastoral Letter of the 23rd of December last, published in the Canadian Ecclesiastical Gazette of the following month.

Without any previously concerted arrangement with any party whatever and without the most distant expectation on my

* I had made it much longer and have since abridged it to its present dimensions.