

alteration of the law and constitution of Canada will find by our respectful petition, that they were not representing the inclinations of this province. The Canadians and their constitution are supported by a long train of royal concessions, and of parliamentary acts, made during the long reign of the venerated George III. Doubt not, Canadians, that his worthy successor, George IV. will be equally favourable to your wishes and your welfare.

I interrupt the course of my reasoning, to relate to the Canadians, a fact I deem material; viz.: I remember the present lord high chancellor, opposing in the house of lords, the reception of a petition, because it was not written in English, and the house confirmed his objection; as well as I can remember, that petition was in Italian, and from Malta. *The Canadian petition must, therefore, according to the rules of parliament, be in the English language.**

In the capitulation of the Marquis de Vaudreuil, with general Amherst; Sept. 8, 1770.

Article 34. Granted the preservation of all the rights in their property and seignories to the priests.

Article 37. Granted the free and peaceable enjoyment of all private property, in lands or in moveables.

Again, 14. Geo. III. c. 83, these are the benevolent sentiments of the monarch and his parliament.

"And be it further enacted, &c. that all His Majesty's Canadian subjects, within the province of Quebec, the religious orders and communities only excepted, may also hold and enjoy their property and possessions, together with all customs and usages relative thereto, and all other their civil rights, in as large, ample, and beneficial manner, as if the said proclamation, commissions, ordinances, and other acts and instruments had not been made, and as may consist with their allegiance to His Majesty and subjection to the crown of Great Britain."

The exception herein contained has an immediate reference to a previous section in the same act, which, to prevent misunderstanding I shall quote; "Provided nevertheless that it shall

"The petitions from Canada, will all be sent, I believe, both in French and English: this observation is therefore, not now of moment: but I am very little inclined to pay much reverence to the dictum of a lord high chancellor, when it is opposed to sound sense, and justice, as well as to the dignity of parliament, and the expediency of the case, as I consider such an objection to petitions from British foreign subjects, would be.— Nor do I think the house of Commons would concur with the lords in so improper a rule, though I am not prepared to say, whether the matter has ever been before them or not!

L. L. M.