

6-7 EDWARD VII., A. 1907

Troops bring with them a considerable amount of ammunition, provisions, &c. Who is to transport these goods to their destination? willing men, it will be said, who will be well paid. You can get willing men, it is true, but at a rate so exorbitant that the Province would not have enough to pay for this one branch of defence. If you impose taxes upon them, you will no longer find them. So then, not to put a stop to work so indispensable, it will be necessary to commandeer; and in consequence we must have recourse to *Corvées*.

But someone will perhaps say as has already been said, that what are called Volunteers will be raised in the country. Here then would be a band of *Freemen* condemned to *Slavery*. Is it not enough for fortune to have treated them so unkindly, without increasing their misery by slavery. This being inadmissible, taking everything into consideration it appears conclusive after mature deliberation that Taxation cannot exempt us from the billeting of Troops, or from *corvées*; and that consequently an Assembly for the imposing of Taxes would be contrary to the interests of this impoverished Colony.

End.

I certify that during the Course of the month of December of the year 1784, I have printed about two hundred copies of the Objections and about the same number of an Address to His Majesty in opposition to the House of Assembly, (in the same space of time) Montreal 29<sup>th</sup> December 1788.

fl. Mesplet  
printer.

#### ADDRESS OF ROMAN CATHOLIC CITIZENS TO THE KING.<sup>1</sup>

(Copie)

#### LA TRÈS HUMBLE ADRESSE DES CITOYENS ET HABITANS CATHOLIQUES ROMAINS DE DIFFERENTS ETATS DANS LE PROVINCE DE QUEBEC, EN CANADA

Sire,

Au Roi.

Les Bontés dont Votre Cœur Royal et Généreux a pris plaisir à combler Vos fideles et loyaux Sujets Canadiens, les Démarches actuelles et pre-

<sup>1</sup> Canadian Archives, Q 62A—1, p. 297. No names are appended to this petition and it is without date, but it evidently belongs to this period, and is doubtless the one referred to in the printer's note at the end of the preceding document, as being issued along with it. An interesting appeal to the French Canadians generally to protest against the petition of the English together with some of the French citizens, for the repeal of the Quebec Act, was printed and circulated, without signatures or date, under the heading of "Freres et Compatriotes." A copy of this was enclosed in a letter of 10th June, 1785, from Finlay to Nepean, Under Secretary of State. The origin of it is sufficiently indicated by the upbraiding administered to the people for not following the counsel of the clergy and the seigneurs, which would have prevented the quartering of English troops upon them. In any case, if there is to be a representative government, it must be on the basis of three equal Estates, "le Clergé, la Noblesse et la Bourgeoise." In England it is true they have representative government, but that only leads to the levy of taxes. They are told by the agitators that in Canada an assembly will protect them from the *corvées*; but in England, with their Parliament they have also the press gang, which tears away the youths from their families for four, five, and six years. See C.O. 42, vol. 17, p. 184.