

6-7 EDWARD VII., A. 1907

stitutional Questions, by the opinions of the ablest Lawyers in this Kingdom, and concurred in, not only by those, whose Offices and Residence in the Colony have afforded them the means of being fully acquainted with it's true Interest and condition, but as also of such respectable Persons both in the Church and in the Revenue Department in this Kingdom, who are by their Offices Members of this Board, and who have assisted us with their advice on this occasion.

At the same Time that we state this to your Lordships, in order to shew that no information necessary in this important consideration is wanting; and that the subject matter has undergone the most mature examination, it is our Duty to lay before your Lordships a Letter to the Secretary of State from His Majesty's Governor of Quebec,<sup>1</sup> received pending the consideration of this Business.

From the Copy of this Letter hereunto annexed your Lordships will observe, that the Governor States, that some Progress has been made towards a Report upon the Laws, and Administration of Justice, pursuant to His Majesty's Order in Council of the 28<sup>th</sup> of August 1767; That he considers this as the ground work of every other Regulation, and therefore waves giving his Ideas upon the Subject of Religion, and other matters, until that is entirely settled, which he says will be soon, and desires His Majesty's permission to return to England, as well upon his private Affairs, as in order to explain many points relative to that Colony; and represents, that by being upon the spot he should be able to clear up many things, and remove many difficulties, which at that distance can neither be so thoroughly discussed, or perfectly understood, as is necessary for the King's Service.

What influence this Letter is to have in your Lordships determination with regard to what is submitted to you in this Report must depend upon your Lordships wisdom weighing all circumstances; but in the light in which we view the state of this Colony, exposed, as we conceive, to great danger, and suffering many Inconveniencies for want of some more perfect Settlement, we cannot but be of opinion, that however satisfactory it might be to receive Governor Carleton's Sentiments upon many points, relative to the propositions in question; yet the danger and disadvantage of any further delay is too obvious to allow us to consider his Letter, as a justifica-

<sup>1</sup> See appendix No. 18. This letter is dated March 15th, 1769, and is given in Canadian Archives, Q 6, p. 34. The portion referred to is as follows:—"There would be much to say in Regard to the Affairs of Religion in this Province, but that being a delicate and tender Point, I do not design troubling Your Lordship with my Ideas thereupon until that of the Laws and Administrations of Justice, which I consider as the Ground work of the whole, is entirely settled, in which we have made some Progress in Obedience to His Majesty's Order in Council of the 28<sup>th</sup> August 1767; I hope 'eer long our Report thereon will be finished, when the same shall be transmitted to Your Lordship without Loss of Time.

"For the clearer Explanation of these, and many other Points, relative to this Province, as well as to settle some private Affairs, I wish to go Home for a few Months, \* \* \* \* \*

"By being upon the Spot with the King's Servants, I might clear up to them many Points, and remove many Difficulties, which, at this Distance, can neither be so thoroughly discussed, or perfectly understood, as is necessary for the King's Service, whose Interests, in Regard to the Province, I really believe, I could more effectually promote and advance by a Residence of a few Months in London, than of so many years in this Country, \* \* \* \* \* Q 6, pp. 37-38.