

6-7 EDWARD VII., A. 1907

Col. Cor.
Canada
Quebec.
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HALDIMAND TO NORTH.¹QUEBEC 6th November 1783.

My Lord

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Your Lordship has already been made acquainted with the general State of this Country, I am told that in the Petition² which Some of His Majesty's Antient Subjects have prepared to be presented to Parliament, they lay great Stress upon the Number of Loyalists who are to Settle in the Province, as an Argument in favor of the Repeal of the Quebec Act and for Granting a House of Assembly, but I have great Reason to believe these unfortunate People have Suffered too Much by Committees and Houses of Assembly, to have retained any prepossession in favor of that Mode of Government, and that they have no Reluctance to Live under the Constitution established by Law for this Country. At the Meeting of the Legislative Council I intend to propose and recommend the Passing an Ordinance for the Introduction of the Habeas Corpus Act³ or Some other Mode for the personal Security, which will put the Liberty of the Subject in that Respect upon the Same footing as in England, and which will remove one of the ill grounded Objections to the Quebec Act, for tho' that Law had never been introduced into the Province, people were taught to believe that the Quebec Act had deprived the Inhabitants of the benefit of it.—

I have the Honor to be with the greatest Respect and Esteem

My Lord

Your Lordship's Most Obedient
and Most Humble Servant

FRED: HALDIMAND

The Right Honorable Lord North
(original)

¹ Canadian Archives, Haldimand Papers, B 56, p. 170. The first part of this despatch deals with the preparations for the settlement of the Loyalists.

² The petition here referred to is dated 30th Sept., 1783, C.O. 42, v. 15, p. 29. It is the first form of that afterwards presented and dated 24th Nov., 1784. See p. 742.

³ On Feb. 7th, 1782, in the Legislative Council, "Mr. Allsopp moves for leave to bring in three Ordinances in conformity to the 12th & 13th Articles of his Majesty's Instructions." The first related to English Law and trial by jury in commercial matters; the second authorized and required the judges of all the Courts to issue writs of Habeas Corpus according to the rules and laws of England; the third provided for the suspension of the second ordinance for a year. See Minutes of Leg. Council, v. D., p. 123. This motion, however, was defeated and immediately afterwards Allsopp was suspended from the Council on the grounds of his protest of 1780. This protest was made, 6th March, 1780, against the address to the Governor carried by the majority in Council, and supporting him in his refusal to comply with the instructions from the Home Government, *re* improvements in the Court of Appeal. (See p. 706.) It is an interesting document setting forth, with concrete details, those practical consequences of the introduction of the Quebec Act which became the occasion for such vigorous protests from 1784 to the passing of the Constitutional Act in 1791. The Protest is given in full in Minutes of the Leg. Council, vol. D., p. 81.