

6-7 EDWARD VII., A. 1907

Gentleman of this Town to translate into French ; The Canadians suspecting their only View was to push them forward to ask, without really intending their Participation of the Privilege, declined joining them here or at Montreal, but in the agitation they were thrown into by all this Negotiation, as well as Mr Masere's Publications,¹ circulated here with great Industry, they thought themselves obliged to do something, tho' they could not well tell how, and this produced the Petitions already sent Home.

It may not be amiss to observe, that there are not above five among the signers to the two Petitions, who can be properly stiled Freeholders, and the Value of four of these Freeholds is very inconsiderable. The Number of those possessing Houses in the Towns of Quebec and Montreal, or Farms in the Country, held of The King or some private Seigneur, upon paying a yearly Acknowledgment, is under thirty.

In my Answer² I carefully avoided entering into any Discussion upon the Subject of their Petition, or taking notice of the Irregularity of their conduct, to endeavour to preserve them in good Temper, and to prevent them presenting their Requests through any other then the proper Channel, was the measure that appeared to me most eligible for the King's Service ; I have therefore promised them, to forward to Your Lordship, the Memorial they intend presenting to His Majesty ; when that is executed, and they are a little cooled, they will be more ready to attend to any Thing I may take Occasion to offer upon the Matter in private.

The whole of this Transaction sufficiently evinces how necessary it is to give Power and Activity to the Government of this Province; the Canadians are tractable and submissive, but if Matters were to remain here much longer in the loose Way they are in at present, there is too much Reason to apprehend, that it might be attended with bad Effects ; A Confirmation of their Laws of Property, and Rights of Inheritance, after which they most ardently sigh, would be most satisfactory to them all, and prove a very great Means of attaching the Canadians effectually to His Majesty's Royal Person and Government—

I have the Honor to be
with the greatest Respect
My Lord !
Your Lordship's
Most Obedient and
Most Humble Servant

Earl of Dartmouth
One of His Majesty's Principal
Secretaries of State.

H. T. CRAMAHÉ

¹ Of these the first and last published, prior to this date, have already been given in this volume; see p. 257, and p. 327. Of the several other papers dealing with the laws and constitution of the Province of Quebec published before this date, some were reproduced in later volumes, especially in "An Account of the Proceedings" &c., others remained in their original form of issue, as the "Draught of an Act of Parliament for settling the Laws of the Province of Quebec," 1772.

² See below, p. 495.