

6-7 EDWARD VII., A. 1907

human mind, conciliating the affections of all his Majesty's Subjects, and having a tendency to render this a happy and Flourishing Province." Observation The Education of Youth in this Province except in the Cities where indeed the Schools cannot be boasted of, is confined altogether to the Female sex, there are some five or six small indifferent schools dispersed thro' the Country kept by Nuns called Sisters of the Congregation, for instructing Girls, but not a single one that deserves the name for educating Boys, hence all the Inhabitants are unhappily ignorant of the use of Letters, and incapable of reading or writing, a situation truly lamentable!

We are informed that the Fund in England piously and generously contributed for the propagation of Christian knowledge in foreign parts, is in a great measure now unemployed,¹ from the circumstance of the United States of America having separated themselves from Great Britain.

We are also informed that the society of Jesuits is shortly to be suppressed and dissolved and their property and Estates vested in the Crown.²

We understand that the Estates granted to the Jesuits were for the purpose of building a College and endowing it and the Revenues arising therefrom to be applied to the Education of youth, and that before the conquest of Canada a very considerable number of Students were constantly educated in that College. Such being the deplorable state of this Country with respect to useful Learning, and such the ample provision made as a remedy to so great a misfortune as a state of ignorance confessedly is.— We have humbly to recommend that Application be made thro' the proper Channel for a participation of the first mentioned fund, and we humbly trust that His Majesty out of his paternal goodness will be graciously pleased to direct that the Jesuits Estates and the Revenues thereof, may be applied to the Endowment of a College or University in this City with able Professors for the Education of the Youth of all British America and for building and maintaining Free Schools with proper Masters for teaching the English Language and other Branches of Education throughout this Extensive Province on an approved liberal Plan. Posterity requires at our hands our Endeavour to procure them so great a blessing, which we supplicate both on their behalf and our own.

We have avoided making Observations on that important part of the Trade of this Province carried on with the Indians in the Interior parts thereof, as the Merchants in Montreal by being particularly engaged therein, are more capable of giving the Honble Committee information of the needful regulations and to their report, on that and other Subjects we refer.

In general and upon the whole of the Observations which we have humbly offered, may be collected, the utter impossibility of governing

¹ Assistance from this fund was soon afterwards extended to Canada for religious purposes.

² The disposal of the Jesuits' Estates was a matter of much interest and discussion at this time. See note 1, p. 857.