

Unfortunately, the work of stripping them of their most sacred rights was to soon begin.

*Civil Government.*

On 7th October, 1763, George III issued a proclamation establishing civil government in the English possessions in North America.

Canada was divided up. Labrador from the St. John river to Hudson's Bay, the Island of Anticosti, and the Magdalen Islands were annexed to the Government of Newfoundland; the regions of the great lakes to the neighboring colonies, and New Brunswick, forming later a separate province. "The boundaries of Canada had to be restricted", said the Lords of Trade to Lord Egremont, (1) "in order to prevent the old French inhabitants and others from going away or settling in remote localities".

The proclamation next determined the form of government to be adopted in the colonies. It was obvious that the Province of Quebec was to be governed in the same way as the other English colonies inasmuch as no exception seemed to be made as regarded it in the proclamation (2). For the time being, the articles of the capitulation of Quebec and Montreal and of the Treaty of Paris, which guaranteed to the inhabitants the free exercise of the Catholic religion had to be respected, but, in the thoughts of the new masters of the country, this was only regarded as a transitory privilege; the Catholic religion would be replaced by Protestantism; (3) the French Canadians would eventually adopt the manners and customs of the English colonies; the introduction of the English laws would compel them to use the English tongue and initiate them into the secrets of the British constitution and, little by little, they would be transformed into English and Protestant subjects. This was a vain hope. The conflict between the two races was about to begin over again, no longer on the battlefield, but in the more peaceful meetings of the nation on the floor of Parliament, in the Cabinets of Ministers, and after one hundred and fifty years of disputes, it was to be as keen and as acrimonious as on the first day.

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(1) Const. Doc. (1759-1791), p. 79.

(2) Here is what Attorney General Masères said in September, 1769, in criticising a report of Governor Carleton in favor of the re-establishment of the French laws in civil matters.

"In the first place, (the Attorney-General) thinks it will be a deviation from that plan of conduct which your Majesty has hitherto thought fit to pursue with respect to this province ever since the conquest of it by your Majesty's arms in 1760, which he conceives to have been, to endeavour to introduce the English laws and the English manner of government into it, and thereby to assimilate and associate this province to your Majesty's other colonies in North America, and not to keep it distinct and separate from them in religion, laws, and manners, to all future generations. Const. Doc. (1759-1791), p. 258.

(3) "And to the End that the Church of England may be established both in Principles and Practice, and that the said Inhabitants may by Degrees be induced to embrace the Protestant Religion, and their Children be brought up in the Principles of it; We do hereby declare it to be Our Intention, when the said Province shall have been accurately surveyed, and divided into Townships, Districts, Precincts or Parishes, in such manner as shall be hereinafter directed, all possible Encouragement shall be given to erecting Protestant Schools in the said Districts, Townships and Precincts, by settling, appointing and allotting proper Quantities of Land for that Purpose, and also for a Glebe and Maintenance for a Protestant Minister and Protestant School-Masters; and you are to consider and report to Us, by Our Commissioners for Trade and Plantations, by what other Means the Protestant Religion may be promoted, established and encouraged in Our Province under your Government. Instructions from the King to Governor Murray, 7th December, 1763. Const. Doc. (1759-1791), p. 139.