

## SESSIONAL PAPER No. 18

person licenced for that purpose by the Crown, as consists with the Spirit and intention of the Treaty of Paris.

We are sensible, My Lords, that the regulations we have suggested, when compared with these objects, may be found in the execution to require some further addition; but we shall think we have not altogether failed in our wishes to comply with your Lordships direction, if what we have suggested shall lay the foundation of such Measures, as your Lordships superior Wisdom and experience shall enable you to recommend in a Matter, which we again beg leave to repeat is of the greatest importance, and which will not in our opinion safely admit of any longer delay.<sup>1</sup>

\* \* \* \* \*

It would, My Lords, have been a great Satisfaction to us, in making our Report to your Lordships upon the several matters contained in your Order of Reference, to have been able to have reduced, what we had to offer into a narrower compass; but although we have, with this view, taken the liberty to refer your Lordships to former Reports upon the affairs of Quebec, in cases where we saw no reason to deviate from the Opinion or Propositions contained therein, yet the necessity of being explicit on every particular point, not as yet discussed, and to which your Lordships Order refers, has made it impossible for us to avoid taking up more of your Lordship's Time, than we otherwise wished to have done; and when your Lordships reflect upon the importance of the subject, and consider how much depends upon a speedy Determination on the measures we have now proposed, we trust we shall stand justified in our endeavors to state our opinion in the fullest manner, and to lay before you every circumstance necessary for your information; and if from what we have offered it shall appear to your Lordships, as it does to us, that the form of Government, if it can be so called, at present existing in Quebec, does not correspond with what was intended in the Establishment of it, and is in no respect competent to it's wants and necessities, but on the contrary productive of the greatest Inconveniences; That the doubts and apprehensions entertained by His Majesty's new subjects ought to be removed, and that it is neither just nor reasonable, that the expence of the Establishments in Quebec should any longer continue a Burthen on this country, we trust your Lordships will agree with us in opinion, that it is high time some steps were taken towards a necessary reform, in a case of so great Importance, as to affect not only the security of this Colony, but with it, that of all His Majesty's other Dominions in America.

Whether what we have suggested proposes such remedy as is adequate to the Evil, must be submitted to your Lordships; but we should not do justice to our own Sentiments, if we did not observe, that they are founded on the fullest Information; guided in those parts, that include great con-

<sup>1</sup> Here follows the section of the Report dealing with the problem of the provincial revenue and its administration. As this has but little bearing on the constitutional development of the Province, it is omitted.