

"the English only, till the said epoch; after the expiration of which they will likewise forfeit all pretensions on their unliquidated papers."

The first national event of any moment which had occurred after the reduction of Montreal was the death of George the Second. On the morning of the 25th of October, 1760, his Majesty, while at his palace at Kensington, was suddenly seized with a violent disorder, and fell down speechless, and soon expired, notwithstanding all possible methods used for his recovery, in the seventy-seventh year of his age and thirty-fourth of his reign. All the French in Canada, of any distinction, immediately went into mourning for His Majesty; and Governor Gage received the following address from the Officers of Militia, and the Merchants of Montreal, on the loss of their Sovereign:

The Address of the Officers of the Militia, and the Merchants of Montreal, to General Gage, Governor of that place.

"Cruel destiny then has cut short the glorious days of so great and magnanimous a monarch. We are come to pour out our grief into the paternal bosom of your Excellency; the sole tribute of gratitude of a people, who will never cease to exult in the mildness and moderation of their new masters. The General who conquered us has treated us more like victors, than vanquished, and has left us a precious Pledge, by name and deed, of his goodness to us. What acknowledgements are we not bound to make for so many favours? They shall be for ever engraved on our hearts in indelible characters. We intreat your Excellency to continue to us the honour of your protection. We will endeavour to deserve it by our zeal, and the earnest prayers we shall offer up to the Almighty Being for your health and preservation."

Nothing can more clearly shew than this simple, beautiful, and pathetic address, the sentiments of approbation with which the Canadians in general suffered their sovereignty to be transferred from the French to the British monarch, and the pledge, to use their own ingenious phrase, which had thus early been given of their future devotion and loyalty to the most free and liberal government on the face of the earth.

* GAGE, in French, signifies a pledge.