

## SESSIONAL PAPER No. 29c

coadjutor to the Bishopric seems to be considered as a matter of course, at least there is no appearance of there ever having been any interference on the part of His Majesty's Government.

This Bishop tho' unknown to our Constitution and confirmed, if not appointed by a Foreign Power, has been suffered to exercise every Jurisdiction incident to the episcopal functions, he nominates to all the benefices of the Province, and removes at his pleasure from one living, to another, and it is not an unfrequent circumstance, for an offence, or a supposed offence, to be punished by a degradation from a good Cure, to one of lesser emolument. His Patronage is at least equal to that of the Government, & it is so perfectly at his pleasure, that Government has no other notice of it, than that he usually once a year delivers to the Governor a list of such changes as have taken place during the preceding twelve months; so complete does the Bishop consider his independance, & so cautious is he not to perform any act which might be construed into an acknowledgement of His Majesty's Rights that if a Proclamation is issued for a Fast, or thanksgiving or any other object which involves it in an Act of the Church, He will not obey it as an emanation from the King, but He issues a mandate of his own to the same purpose, indeed, but without the least allusion to His Majesty's authority, or the Proclamation which the Government has issued, In truth the Catholic Bishop tho' unacknowledged as such, exercises now a much greater degree of authority than he did in the time of the French Government, because he has arrogated to himself every power which was then possessed by the Crown; The Arms of England are nowhere put up in the Churches.

With the Curés themselves, no direct communication from the Government exists in any shape, a numerous and powerfull body, dispersed in every corner of the Country, and certainly possessing a very considerable weight, and influence with the people, scarcely know, and are hardly known to the Government, no one Act of Government since it has been under my direction, has ever been addressed to a Curé, nor has any one instance of communication from a Curé ever reached me, perhaps an exception to the first part of this observation might be brought in my having in the desire of circulating the Speech I made to the Parliament when I dissolved it, directed a Copy to be sent to each of the Curés, the circumstance however will furnish no exception to the second part, for there did not occur a single instance of a Curé even acknowledging the receipt of it.

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Their attachment to France is equally undoubted, and it is now even supposed to be not a little directed to the Person of Bonaparte, who since the concordat, is considered among them as the Restorer of the Roman Catholic Religion.

Of the Legislative Council it is not necessary to say much, it is certainly composed of every thing that is respectable in the Province, and I believe the Members to be on all occasions animated by the best intentions towards His Majesty's Service, & the public good; It is an Object of great jealousy to the Lower House, who seem anxious to seize every opportunity of shewing the little respect in which they hold it, It is thought that an increase of numbers would add to their weight, at present they seldom exceed five or six in the House.

To a People circumstanced as I have described these to be, ignorant and credulous in the extreme, having no one common tie of affection, or union, viewing us with Jealousy, mistrust, and hatred, having separate & distinct Interests, It has been thought proper to give a share in the Government of the Country, by a House of Representatives, in which they must ever have the Majority; It is very far from my intention to question the liberal views on which the measure was originally founded, but it is my business to point out the consequences that have ensued from it.

Your Lordship is aware that tho' the Constitutional Act has established a qualification for the Electors, there is none required in the Representation, I mean with respect to Property. The Numbers of English in the House has never exceeded 14 or 15,