

(9.)—Extract of a LETTER from Lord Dartmouth to Lieutenant Governor Cramahé; dated Whitehall, 2d September 1772.

YOUR having permitted the person styling himself Bishop of Quebec, to consecrate a coadjutor, in consequence of powers which you say he had received for that purpose, and which, I presume, must therefore mean from some Foreign Ecclesiastical Authority, appears to me to be a matter of the highest importance, and the more so as I do not find, upon the fullest examination, that any authority whatever has at any time been given by His Majesty for the exercise, within the colony, of any powers of Episcopacy in matters relative to the religion of the Church of Rome.

In this view therefore of that measure, it seems to me of a nature that will require the most serious consideration; and as every thing that concerns the state of Quebec, with regard as well to its Civil as to its Ecclesiastical Constitution, is now in deliberation at the Privy Council, I shall accordingly receive His Majesty's commands to lay before that Board such parts of your secret dispatch of the 25th July as relate to that proceeding.

(10.)—Extract of a LETTER from Lord Dartmouth to Lieutenant Governor Cramahé; dated Whitehall, 9 Dec. 1772.

SINCE my Letter to you of the 4th ult. I have not failed to give the fullest consideration to what you mentioned in your secret Dispatch of 25 July last, with regard to the appointment, with your approbation, of a person under the name of Coadjutor, to assist in the performance of episcopal functions in the Romish Church in Quebec.

I have already acquainted you that the state of the colony, in whatever regards its civil constitution, and the arrangements which have hitherto been made, or may be further necessary, is now before the Privy Council, who will I doubt not very shortly submit to His Majesty their advice and opinion thereupon; and more especially with regard to what concerns the toleration of the religion of the Church of Rome, and the establishments incident thereto. In this situation, therefore, it would ill become me, unacquainted as I am with any of the regulations which have been made or indulgences allowed, respecting this important matter, to give any countenance or encouragements to establishments or arrangements, of what nature soever, concerning the religion of the Romish Church in Quebec; much less can I warrant the exercise of any episcopal powers in that colony, which I do not find, upon the fullest enquiry, have at any time been authorized by instructions from His Majesty.

At the same time I do not take upon me, as I stand at present uninformed upon the subject, to say that the admission of some episcopal authority, under proper restrictions, may not be necessary to that toleration of the religion of the Church of Rome, which the King, reserving to himself his Royal supremacy, has been graciously pleased to allow.—That is a question that must remain for the consideration of the Privy Council, whose determination, as well on this as on every other arrangement respecting the state of ecclesiastical affairs in Quebec, will in a great measure depend upon such informations as have been and still may be received from the servants of the crown in the colony, and such lights as can be collected from those who have been in chief command there. And I should do injustice both to their merit and to yours, if I did not add, that it appears to me that whatever indulgences have been allowed to the Canadian subjects, they have been granted to them with no other view than to conciliate their affections, and to create that attachment to and dependance on the British Government, upon which the safety and prosperity of the colony depend.

(11.)—Extract of a LETTER from Lieutenant Governor Cramahé to the Earl of Dartmouth; dated Quebec, 22d June 1773.

IT has ever been my opinion, I own, that the only sure and effectual method of gaining the affections of His Majesty's Canadian subjects to his Royal Person and Government, was, to grant them all possible freedom and indulgence in the exercise of their religion, to which they are exceedingly attached; and that any restraint laid