

The Ecclesiastics of St. Sulpice are then proved to be a Community established by Letters Patent. This is all that is necessary to the legal constitution of a Body. The King permits the Sulpicians to establish a Seminary and Community at Montreal; we then find, by the Letters de Terrier of 1695 and 1724, and by the Arrêt and Letters Patent of 1702, that the Sulpicians did establish a Seminary and Community accordingly. We have therefore a Seminary erected by Letters Patent, and consequently most legally established.

The Seminary of Montreal once established, continued until the Conquest,—from its nature as a body having perpetual succession; Conquests by their nature leave every thing as it was before, unless the conquering party make a change;—the 33rd and 35th Articles of the Capitulation mentions the Seminary of Montreal with the other Communities, and designates it by a corporate name “the Priests of St. Sulpice at Montreal.” The Capitulation also mention their Regulations and Constitutions, and consequently speaks of it as a Community; and if the subjects there mentioned are referred to the King’s Pleasure, the Seminary must remain a body corporate until the King shall have expressed his pleasure to the contrary.—The 34th Article when it secures to all Communities the property then belonging to them, preserves also the Communities themselves who are to enjoy them.

Since the Conquest, as before it, the Seminary has passed thousands of Deeds of concession and other Instruments, in which it has acted as a body corporate: But bodies corporate may, according to Blackstone [11. 205. French

Conquest.

Usage.