

to confer on them, have been chiefly created by, and are proposed to be drawn from, the industry, enterprize, and capital of the inhabitants of the Colony of British and Irish descent, who were invited to settle in the Colony by the Royal Proclamation, and to whom the promises in that document, it is reasonable to suppose, were intended more especially to apply; as without those assurances it could hardly have been expected, that any considerable number of His Majesty's native born subjects would settle in a Colony where the laws and feudal exactions of a despotic Government would continue to be enforced.

The intention and policy of the Government in regard to these estates, was again distinctly announced in an Act of the Imperial Parliament, 14th Geo. III. cap. 83, wherein it is provided, "That all His Majesty's Canadian subjects within the Province of Quebec, *the religious orders and communities only excepted*, may hold and enjoy their property and possessions."

Notwithstanding these public and authentic acts, in opposition to the articles of capitulation, in violation of the Royal promise, and against the spirit and intent of an Act of the Imperial Parliament, the St. Sulpicians have been permitted, until the present day, to enjoy the rents, profits, and feudal rights of their property and possessions, and that, too, not in virtue of a Royal or Parliamentary grant, but simply, as has already been shown, by the connivance of the Ministers of the Crown; who have thus, by indirect means, counteracted the effect of a Royal promise and an Act of the Imperial Parliament, maintained the St. Sulpicians in the exercise of their constitution and privileges, which had been denied to them at the capitulation, and virtually erected an ecclesiastical corporation within the Colony, with powers, and for purposes, such as it is believed no authority, except the Imperial Parliament, can rightfully bestow. It should also be borne in mind, that the opinions and Report, officially communicated to the Government, were to the effect that the St. Sulpicians wrongfully possessed the estates, and could be dispossessed by the ordinary forms of law, without having recourse to the Royal authority for their gradual suppression, as had been exercised towards the Jesuits and Recollets.

In this situation of affairs, an Ordinance has been submitted to the Special Council of Lower Canada, by authority of the Government, "*to Incorporate the Ecclesiastics of the Seminary of St. Sulpice of Montreal, to confirm their title to the Fief and Seigniority of the Island of Montreal, the Fief and Seigniority of the Lake of Two Mountains, and the Fief and Seigniority of St. Sulpice, for the gradual extinction of Seigniorial rights and dues, and for other purposes.*"

By this Ordinance, it is, among other matters, ordained and enacted, that the said Ecclesiastics shall hold and enjoy "the said several Fiefs and Seigniories, with all and every the rights, privileges, and appurtenances thereunto respectively belonging, or in any wise appertaining," and, "they are hereby conferred and declared good, valid, and effectual in the Law, *as fully, in the same manner, to the same extent, and for the same objects, intents, and purposes, as the Ecclesiastics of the Seminary of the Faubourg St. Germain Lez Paris, or the Seminary of St. Sulpice of Montreal, according to its constitution before the 18th day of September, in the year 1759, or either or both of the said Seminaries, might or could have done, or had a right to do, or might or could have held, enjoyed, or applied, the same or any part thereof previously to the last mentioned period.*"