

4 GEORGE V., A. 1914

are French. I use the term designedly My Lord, because I mean to say, that they are in Language, in religion, in manner and in attachment completely French—bound to us by no one tie, but that of a Common Government, and on the contrary viewing us with sentiments of mistrust & jealousy, with envy, and I believe I should not go too far, were I to say with hatred.

This is the first point of view in which, whatever may have been the opinion hitherto, I do not hesitate to present them, tho' under so perfect a consciousness of the consequences that might possibly ensue from it that I feel a moral obligation dwelling on my mind, on the occasion, from which I should shudder, if I did so, without a conviction of its being well founded.

So compleat do I consider this alienation to be, that on the most careful review of all that I know in the Province, there are very few whom I could venture to point out as [not] being tainted with it; the line of distinction between us is completely drawn. Friendship [and] Cordiality are not to be found—even common intercourse scarcely exists—the lower class of people to strengthen a term of contempt add Anglois—and the better sort with whom there formerly did exist some interchange of the common civilities of Society have of late entirely withdrawn themselves—the alledged reason is that their circumstances have gradually declined in proportion as ours have increased in affluence; this may have had some effect, but the observation has been made also, that this abstraction has taken place exactly in proportion as the power of the French in England has become more firmly established.¹

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Among the objects which I deem it necessary to bring to your Lordship's view, it is impossible for me to overlook the Clergy, and the Religious establishments of the Country,² the Act of the 14th of His present Majesty by which the free exercise of the Roman Catholic religion is granted to the Canadians, expressly adds the Condition that it shall be subject to the King's Supremacy as established by the Act of the first Elizabeth³—but neither has this, or one Article of His Majesty's Instructions to the Governors ever been attended to,⁴ the Appointment of the Bishop seems to have been conducted loosely, and with very little ceremony, the Council Books offer no other Document on the occasion, than that the person has taken the Oath pointed out by the Act of the 14th Geo. III in lieu of the Oath required by the Statute of the first year of the Reign of Queen Elizabeth, but without mentioning on what account he takes it;⁵ of late he has been designated on that occasion as Roman Catholic Bishop of Quebec, formerly he was only called Superintendant of the Romish Church.

Altho' it does not appear upon the Records of the Council Board, or by any other Document, His Majesty does however nominate the Coadjutor, but this nomination appears to have been verbal. I observe in the Return of the offices of emolument of this Colony lately made to your Lordship's Office, the Bishop says it is *cum futura successione*,⁶ how that can be, when it does not appear to be under any written document of any sort, I do not know, unless it be in the Pope's subsequent confirmation, which always takes place, it is however of such weight, that the succession of the

1. In the portions of this despatch which are omitted Sir James Craig indulges in certain criticisms of the Canadians composing the majority in the Assembly which have no bearing on the constitutional issue.

2. The same question is discussed by Sir Robert Milnes in his despatch of November 1st, 1800, page 249.

3. See *Constitutional Documents, 1759-1791*, Shortt and Doughty, 1907, page 403.

4. See Article 44 of the Instructions to Lord Dorchester, page 24.

5. For the entry in the Minutes of the Executive Council in connection with the succession of Mgr. Plessis, see State Book I, page 299.

6. In the return referred to the manner of appointment is given as "desired by the late R. R. Peter Denaut as his coadjutor *cum futura successione*, agreed as such by H. M. Governor Gen. Robt. Prescott, 2nd September, 1797, confirmed by Bulls from the Holy See bearing the date of April 26th, 1800, promoted to the Cathol. Episcopal See of Quebec by the death of the said R. R. P. Denaut on the 17th of January, 1806, sworn before the President & Council the 27th of the same month." (Canadian Archives, Q. 111, page 31.)