

influence over the minds of the Indians, in order to remove them from the River St. Lawrence; succeeding in occasioning them to abandon their former settlement in Sillery, along the River, to establish themselves at another place more out of the way, within the Fief of Sillery, they thence transferred them to the existing Village of Lorette, situated in the remote part of the true Seigniory of Sillery, and where the Indians still considered themselves at home, not suspecting the Jesuits of having assumed a property of which they were the Administrators and Trustees. After the last mentioned migration of the Indians, the Jesuit Fathers determined to ask for themselves what remained to the Indians of the Fief Sillery, and as there was a deficiency of reasons for so doing, they fabricated some, which served the purpose, and they obtained from Messieurs de Callières and Bochart, Governor and Intendant, a Grant, bearing date the 3rd October 1699, granting to them, from the motives therein assigned, the Seigniory of Sillery, one league in breadth, along the River St. Lawrence, and one league and a half in depth, as far as the Seigniory of St. Gabriel, which terminates the same in the rear. The King of France confirmed with regret, this unjust Grant, by a Letter of 6th May 1702. The Jesuits having so altered the Title of their possession, by obtaining of Mr. and Madame Giffard, and of the King of France, that which belonged neither to the King nor to Mr. and Mrs. Giffard, held possession in fact and for a long time. But Your Petitioners conceive that they could not prescribe against their Wards, who had not faculty of free agency. The Titles of the Jesuits could not have withstood opposition, had any been made, and it was the province of the Jesuits to make such opposition for the Indians, whose administrators and guardians they were. Your Petitioners have heard, that one of the essential characteristics of the Sovereign's liberality, is, that it is ever exerted without prejudice to any right acquired by third persons. And if this be well founded, Your Petitioners conceive, that the King of France could not validly give to the Jesuits, that which he had already bestowed on the Indians. Your Petitioners further represent, that the other Indians of this Country have not been despoiled of their property, and that the Iroquois of St. Regis, and of Sault St. Louis, as also the Abenakis, of St. Francois, are in the undisturbed possession of the Seigniories, which the French Kings permitted them to retain in their own Country. That Your Petitioners alone, victims of the simplicity of their ancestors, and of the cupidity of the Jesuits, are divested of all, and reduced to utter poverty; even so that in a country of which their ancestors once were masters, they have lost all the right even of hunting, and dare no longer enter the forest, where they are daily expelled with violence by the Proprietors, who consider them as malefactors, and treat them accordingly. Wherefore Your Petitioners pray your Honorable House will consider the justice of their claim, and the extent of their sufferings, and adopt such measures as they may deem meet, in order to obtain for them that justice, which is due from a paternal and equitable Government, to which the Hurons ever have been, as ever they will, remain faithful.—Lorette Village. 26th January 1819.