

6-7 EDWARD VII., A. 1907

This much however is certain, that the Canadians feel some Uneasiness at these Proceedings ; they are surprised that such Meetings and nocturnal Cabals should be suffered to exert all their Efforts to disturb the Minds of the People by false and seditious Reports, calculated to throw this Province into the same Disorders that reign in other Parts of this Continent; They express some Impatience and Indignation at being solicited to join in such Proceedings, and are not without their Fears, that some of their Countrymen, under the Awe of menacing Creditors, and others, from Ignorance, may have been induced to put their Hands to a Paper, which, they are assured, is intended to secure their Lands and Property, and take from the Governor the Power of seizing them to his own Use, or sending them and their Families up the Country among the Savages, or waging War, at his own Pleasure, upon the Bostonians ; in short to relieve them from the Oppressions and Slavery imposed upon them by those Acts of Parliament; They are the more apprehensive these and such like Reports may have had Effect upon some weak and ignorant People, that from the Precision necessary in the Translation, the Acts themselves have not as yet been promulgated.

I have assured the Canadians, that such Proceedings could never affect the late Measures taken in their Favor, nor did I believe, they ever would succeed with Government upon any Occasion, so that they might remain in perfect Tranquility upon that Account; Notwithstanding my thorough Conviction, of the Assurances, I have given them, and that all these Town Meetings, all the Reports, breathing that same Spirit, so plentifully gone forth through the neighbouring Provinces, can for the present only excite a trifling and momentary Agitation, I cannot but Regret, such Examples should be set the People of this Province, and think, Government cannot guard too much, or too soon, against the Consequences of an Infection, imported daily, warmly Recommended, and spread abroad by the Colonists here, and indeed by some from Europe, not less violent than the Americans.

I am informed, all Persons from Boston for Canada are searched for Letters, and strictly examined, if they have any verbal Message from General Gage for me, so that I am not likely to hear from the General, before the Navigation opens next Summer.

I am with much Esteem and Respect

Your Lordship's

Most Obedient and

Most Humble Servant

GUY CARLETON

Earl of Dartmouth

One of His Majesty's

Principal Secretaries of State.