

6-7 EDWARD VII., A. 1907

which is most suited to his Subjects, and employ the Measures most fitted to render them happy.

May we be allowed to assure Your Majesty, that we in no wise concur in the Petitions of Your Ancient Subjects, conjointly with some New Ones, whose Number compared with the total number comprised in our Province, can exercise but little Influence.

That the Greater Number of the principal Proprietors of our Colony have not been consulted.

May it please You, Most Gracious Sovereign, to consider, that the House of Assembly is not the unanimous Wish, nor the general Desire of Your Canadian People, who through Poverty and the Misfortunes of a recent War, of which this Colony has been the Theatre, are not in a Condition to bear the Taxes which must necessarily ensue, and that in many respects to Petition for it appears contrary to, and inconsistent with the wellbeing of the New Catholic Subjects of Your Majesty.

For this reason, Most Gracious Sovereign, we entreat You that in Consideration of the Fidelity and Loyalty of Your Canadian Subjects, to whose Behaviour in the most critical Circumstances, their former Governour Sir Guy Carleton has testified, our Diocesan Bishops may be allowed to bring over from Europe the Spiritual Help, which is so indispensably necessary for us, that the free Exercise of our Religion may be continued to us to the fullest Extent, without any Restriction, that our Municipal and Civil Laws may be preserved in their Entirety, and that with these two Points may be granted the same Privileges enjoyed by our Forefathers and ourselves, before the Conquest of this Country by the victorious Arms of Your Majesty ; that Your new Catholic Subjects, who form nineteen twentieths of this Province, may in the future, proportionately to their Number, have a larger Share in the Distribution of Your Royal Favours. And that, in Case it should be Your Royal Will to agree to the Petitions of Your Ancient Subjects, and of some New Ones, it may please you to suspend Your Royal Judgment till all the Classes and Communities which compose our Colony shall have been universally and legally called together, which the Lateness of the Season, at present prevents us from doing ; so that by these Means the unanimous Wish of our People may be transmitted to Your Majesty.

This is what Your faithful and loyal Canadian Subjects, relying upon Natural Right, and still more, upon Your Paternal Affection, humbly hope to obtain from their Most Gracious Sovereign. They will never cease to pray for the Preservation of Your Sacred Person, for your August Family, and for the Prosperity of your Realm. Such are the feelings which lead us to subscribe ourselves, with the deepest Respect.

Sire

Your Majesty's

Most humble,

most obedient Faithful

and loyal Subjects.