

of the dioceses of Quebec and Montreal, in June, 1847; by the Reverend Father Théophile Charaux, Superior General of the Mission of the Jesuits in Canada, in January, 1874; by their Lordships, the Bishops E. A., Archbishop of Quebec, L.F., Bishop of Three Rivers, Jean, Bishop of Rimouski, Edouard Charles, Bishop of Montreal, Antonio, Bishop of Sherbrooke, J. Thomas, Bishop of Ottawa, L. Z., Bishop of St. Hyacinthe, Dominique, Bishop of Chicoutimi, on the 9th of October, 1878; and, finally, by His Grace the Archbishop of Quebec, on the 2nd of January, 8th of April and 27th of April, 1885.

Whereas in his letter of the 2nd of January, 1885, addressed to the Honorable John J. Ross, then Premier of this Province, His Grace the Archbishop of Quebec stated:

"I have the honor to inform you that, in virtue of an Indult of the 13th of October, 1884, I am personally authorized by the Holy See to treat with the Government of the Province of Quebec, and, for a reasonable compensation, to settle the question of the ownership of the property formerly owned in this Province by the Jesuits when their order was suppressed in 1773."

Letter from Archbishop of Quebec to Hon. J. J. Ross, Premier, informing him that he was authorized to treat with the Government respecting Jesuits' Estates.

Whereas, in answer to one of these representations of His Grace the Archbishop of Quebec, dated on the 8th April, 1885, the Honorable John J. Ross, then Premier, replied as follows on the 25th of April of the same year:

"If His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor in Council decides to re-open and reconsider this question of the Jesuits' Estates, I will not fail to notify Your Grace and the Reverend Jesuit Fathers, so that, with your assistance and theirs, he may, if expedient, be able to submit to the Legislature a measure which will settle this question in a satisfactory and definite manner."

Reply of Hon. J. J. Ross, to Archbishop of Quebec.

Whereas, consequent upon these various representations and especially that of the 9th of October, 1878, signed by the Bishops of the Province, protesting against the Government putting up for sale the property of the old Jesuits' College at Quebec, such sale did not take place and the property was allowed to fall into a wretched condition.

Whereas, on the 17th of February, 1888, the Honorable Honoré Mercier, Premier of this Province, wrote the following letter:

"Rome, 17th February, 1888.

"To His Eminence Cardinal Giovanni Simeoni,

"Prefect of the Sacred College of the Propaganda.

"May it please Your Eminence:

"A despatch from Your Eminence, dated on the 7th May last, 1887, informed His Eminence Cardinal Taschereau that the Holy Father reserved to himself the right of settling the question of the Jesuits' Estates in Canada.

Letter from Hon. H. Mercier to Cardinal Simeoni respecting the