

TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY :

May it please Your Majesty,

WE, Your Majesty's loyal subjects, the Commons of Lower Canada, in Provincial Parliament assembled, humbly pray that we may be permitted to approach Your Majesty's throne, and to represent to Your Majesty,

That the Seminary, or ecclesiastical body known under the name of the Seminary of Saint Sulpice at Montreal, in this province, was founded in the island of Montreal ; and that the seigniorship of the said island and its dependencies were granted in mortmain by his most Christian Majesty, according to the provisions of the law then in force, so far back as the year 1677, in order to the erection and establishment of the said Community and Seminary in the said island for the education of the inhabitants of the country :

That the object of the edict or ordinance of the year 1677 was to sanction the said Establishment, and to ensure its permanency ; and that this Act of legislative power and authority was founded on the donation of the said seigniorship, which, to use the express terms of the said donation, was made " to the said Seminary or Community engaged in the instruction and edification of the inhabitants of the country, and with the intent that the net income of the said seigniorship, and the increase thereof, should be employed for the advancement of the objects thereof."

That the inhabitants of this province felt the most lively alarm when they learned that a project had been formed a few years ago, which, if carried into execution, would have had the effect of transferring into other hands the said seigniorship, and the other property of the Seminary so established at Montreal, which, during upwards of 60 years, under the government of Your Majesty, and of Your Majesty's august Father, of glorious memory, and even for more than a century before, had been peaceably possessed and enjoyed by the said community, the establishment of which is connected with, and of nearly as ancient date as, the settlement of the country :

That the execution of a project of this nature, with respect to an Institution, the utility and even the necessity of which, as respects the civil and moral education of the inhabitants of the country, is acknowledged, would have the effect of placing Your Majesty's faithful subjects in a most critical situation ; and would, moreover, give birth to an anxiety, but too well founded, as to the security of institutions which are in fact the property of the people, and of which the present possessors could not be allowed to dispossess themselves in favour of others, without the intervention and consent of those for whose advantage they enjoy them, and which they have received on the condition that they should fulfil, with regard to the inhabitants of the country, the obligations attached to the possession thereof :

That none but the most distressing consequences could follow the execution of a project of this nature, the tendency of which must inevitably be to shake that confidence in the security of property which forms the safety of a people, and to weaken the feeling of confidence, even in Your Majesty's Government, under the protection of which Your Majesty's faithful Canadian subjects had a right to believe their rights assured and inviolable :

That