

GOVERNOR MURRAY TO THE LORDS OF TRADE.¹

QUEBEC 29th Oct^r 1764

MY LORDS

The inclosed papers will shew you the situation of affairs here and how necessary it is for me to send M^r Cramahé to London² that your Lordships have the most Minute and Clearest Acc^t of every thing relating to this Province. An immediate Remedy seems necessary. To any thing I write doubts may arise and misrepresentations may be made (which I find too frequently to be the case) the necessary delay to clear up such doubts and misrepresentations by letters, may be dangerous. M^r Cramahé will answer every purpose, if properly attended too, he is thoroughly informed of all I know, no Man has the good of this Colony more at heart, no Man is more zealous for the Kings service and certainly there not exist a Man of more Integrity and Application.

Little, very little, will content the New Subjects but nothing will satisfy the Licentious Fanaticks³ Trading here, but the expulsion of the Canadians who are perhaps the bravest and the best race upon the Globe, a Race who cou'd they be indulged with a few priveledges w^{ch} the Laws of England deny to Roman Catholicks at home, wou'd soon get the better of every National Antipathy to their Conquerors and become the most faithful and most useful set of Men in this American Empire.

I flatter myself there will be some Remedy found out even in the Laws for the Relief of this People, if so, I am positive the populer clamours in England will not prevent the Humane Heart of the King from following its own Dictates. I am confident too my Royal Master will not blame the unanimous opinion of his Council here for the Ordonnance establishing the Courts of Justice,⁴ as nothing less cou'd be done to prevent great numbers from emigrating directly, and certain I am, unless the Canadians are admitted on Jurys, and are allowed Judges and Lawyers who understand their Language his Majesty will lose the greatest part of this Valuable people.

¹ Canadian Archives; vol. Q 2, p. 233.

² Mr. H. T. Cramahé had been Civil Secretary for the District of Quebec, from the time that Gen. Murray had been appointed Lt. Governor, after the Conquest. When Canada, following the example of the older colonies, desired to appoint an agent in London, Mr. Cramahé was nominated for the position, in Feb. 1764. The appointment, however, was apparently not made. When civil government was established, in Aug. 1764, Mr. Cramahé became a member of the first Council of the Province.

³ This letter and the following petitions incidentally reveal the very strained relations, extending to personal bitterness, which existed between Governor Murray and the British commercial element in the colony, and which led to the Governor's recall.

⁴ The ordinance of Sept. 17th, 1764. See p. 205.

I beg leave further to represent to your Lordship that a Lieu^t Governor at Montreal is absolutely necessary, that Town is in the Heart of the most populous part of the Province, it is surrounded by the Indian Nations and is one Hundred and Eighty miles from the Capitol, it is there that the most Opulent Priests live, and there are settled the greatest part of the French Nobless, consequently every intrigue to our disadvantage will be laid and hatched there. The expence of a Lieu^t Governor will be a Trifle, I am positive for some years it will not exceed what will be necessary to procure intelligence in that District, This will be saved if a Man of Authority, Diligence and Observation is at the Head of it on the Spots and I do from the Zeal I have for his Majestys Service and the conviction of my heart, declare, that Mr Cramahé is the fittest man I know to fill that place; I am at least certain no body can be appointed who will be more agreeable to the new Subjects

I have the Hon^r to be with the greatest truth & regard.

My Lords,

Y^r Lordships' mo. Ob^t, &^{ca}.

The Lords of Trade & Plantⁿ, (Signed)

JA: MURRAY

P.S. I have been informed that Mess^{rs} Will^m Mackenzie Alex^f Mckenzie and Will^m Grant have been soliciting their Friends in London to prevail upon your Lordships to get them admitted into his Majesty's Council of this Province. I think it my Duty to acquaint your Lordships that the first of these Men is a notorious smugler and a Turbulent Man, the second a weak Man of Little character and the third a conceited Boy. In short it will be impossible to do Business with any of them

(signed) JA: MURRAY

The Lords of Trade & Plantations