

1711

living in, and about Canada, in the cities, towns and villages, who shall willingly put themselves under the protection of her Majesty of Great Britain, and submit to her laws and government, and be found residing on their habitations and places, without any diminution of their flocks and houses, shall be kindly received and treated and maintained, they and their heirs, in quiet and peaceable possession of their lands, houses and other effects lawfully to them belonging, shall enjoy liberty, privileges and exemptions, in common with the rest of her Majesty's natural subjects, together with the free exercise of their religion. And, whereas some may prefer to return to France rather than live under the government of her Majesty of Great Britain, extremely mild and happy though it be, we do also declare, provided they do not take up arms, nor directly incite any one to resist her Majesty's forces, and before any act of hostility on either side, by voluntarily surrendering, they shall have liberty to embark in ships to be furnished to them, equipped with all things necessary to go to France, and take with them the goods of which they shall be just possessors, or to sell them, as well as their land and other immovables.

“As to the bishop, ecclesiastics, religious and missionaries, if they do all in their power to induce the French to obey the orders of her Majesty of Great Britain, we promise that all regard shall be shown them, according to their dignity, functions and character, far from being treated as enemies, and, if they choose, ships shall be furnished them, equipped with all necessaries, to transport to France for them the effects which shall appear to belong to them. but if, on the contrary, they shall dissuade the people from accepting the terms herein offered, they shall be held as guilty of all the unpleasant measures which shall be taken to reduce them by force.

“We further declare, that all who shall take up arms, under pretext of defending said places, cities, towns, villages, castles or forts, shall be treated as enemies and usurpers, and all their lands, houses and other goods, shall be seized