

Translation

Niagara, June 7, 1796

Having been informed that great difficulties have arisen respecting the occupation of a pew due to government in your church, at which I am greatly surprised; and the Bishop of Quebec leaving to me to determine who is the person who should have the enjoyment of it, I therefore pronounce that the said pew and honors pertaining thereto are one of the privileges to which the Lieutenant or, in his absence, the Deputy Lieutenant has an undoubted right. You will accordingly be pleased to give directions that the same conduct which was observed formerly towards the French Commandant be now kept toward the person who will in future occupy the pew in question.

I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,

(Signed) J. G. S[imcoe], Lt. Gov.

It is ordered that [Mr. Dufaux,⁵² the missionary at Assumption Church, also] the trustees and their successors, will observe the tenor of the above letter of His Excellency, the Lieutenant-Governor, and in order to prevent such disputes hereafter it is further ordered that the same conduct will be observed in all the churches of Upper Canada.

(Signed) Edmund Burke⁵³

Vicar General of the Diocese of Quebec, specially charged with affairs of Upper Canada

⁵² François Xavier Dufaux was born in Montreal, Jan. 16, 1752. He became a Sulpician, Aug. 16, 1778, and in 1786 was sent to Detroit to serve the parish of Ste. Anne. The following year, Father Pierre Frechette of Assumption Parish, Sandwich, whose charges had recently been characterized by Father Bocquet as "stubborn rebels and great drunkards," persuaded Dufaux to exchange stations with him. See *B. H. R.*, I, 378. Father Dufaux remained in Sandwich until his death, Sept. 11, 1796. Under his administration the new church was completed and a school was established. During the last two years his pastorate was marked by frequent quarrels with Father Edmund Burke, in which the sympathy of the parish and the support of the bishop seem to have rested with Dufaux. The church-pew dispute, with which the present document deals, was one incident in this quarrel. There is much concerning Dufaux in a volume (anonymous) entitled *Memoir sur les Missions de la Nouvelle Ecosse du Cap Breton et de l'Île du Prince Edouard de 1760 à 1820* (Quebec, 1895). See also, Rev. J. C. Plomer's history of Assumption Parish, in *Letters of the Rev. J. B. Marchand* (Detroit, 1927).

⁵³ Edmund Burke was born in County Kildare, Ireland, in 1753. He studied in Paris and became a priest of the Catholic Church, but owing to local dissensions he determined to migrate to Canada. He reached Canada in 1786 and was shortly made professor of philosophy and mathematics at the Seminary of Quebec. He was subsequently appointed a director of the Seminary, and in 1794 came to Detroit with the title of Vicar-General and Superior of the Missions of Upper Canada. He remained in the western country until the