

ON the twenty-first day of November, one thousand seven hundred and sixty-three, about six weeks after the publication of the aforesaid proclamation, His Majesty issued his commission of Captain General and Governor in Chief of the province of Quebec to Major General Murray, which was received by him, and published in the province in the month of August, one thousand seven hundred and sixty-four. This commission, and the instructions that accompanied it, seemed every where to pre-suppose that the laws of England were in force in the province, being full of allusions and references to those laws on a variety of different subjects, and did not contain the least intimation of a saving of any part of the laws and customs that prevailed there, in the time of the French government.

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It seemed therefore, upon the whole, from the proclamation and commission, to have been His Majesty's intention, with respect to the said province of Quebec, to assimilate the laws and government of it to those of the other American colonies and provinces which were under His Majesty's immediate government, and not to continue the municipal laws and customs by which the conquered people had heretofore been governed, any farther than as those laws might be necessary to the preservation of their property. And His Majesty's ministers appeared, at the time of passing those instruments, to have been of opinion, that, by the refusal of General Amherst to grant to the Canadians the continuance of their ancient laws and usages; and by the reference made in the fourth article of the definitive treaty of