

THE QUESTION

OF THE

SEIGNIORIAL TENURE OF LOWER CANADA,

REDUCED TO A QUESTION OF

LANDED CREDIT.

Among the numerous political and commercial reforms, which the interests of the inhabitants of Lower Canada demand, few equal in interest, in importance and in urgency the reform of the old Seigniorial Laws.

The necessity of getting rid, as soon as possible, of this Seigniorial *Régime*, which exercises its baneful influence both on past, present and future, is felt by every one, and the urgency of reform in this direction is the greater, that time which, according to an old saying, has a cure for all evils, seems in this particular instance to have quite a contrary effect.

A great deal has been said and written in the way of enumerating the wrongs, the abuses and the obstacles in the way of general progress, of which this Tenure has been the principal cause ; but those writings, for the most part, have only had the effect of giving a bold relief to the evils of this system, while some of them were mere recriminations, more proper to excite passion than to enlighten reason, and serve as a guide to the solution of the problem of the Reform of the Seigniorial Laws.

The following remarks are not embarrassed by those vexed questions, and the author considering only the principal and the most important part of the problem, that which relates to