

some of our Customs and Manners, to study in a certain degree, the principles of our Laws and Constitution; and I stand before this Honourable House the Agent, I have no hesitation to say, of a number of the most respectable and most intelligent of these French Canadians, solicit the total Repeal of the Quebec Act.

The Investigation which was made by order of Lord Dorchester, in the Year 1787, into the past Administration of Justice in the Province, and which is in the Hands of his Majesty's Ministers, as well as the disputes between the upper and lower Courts in the Province since that period, will shew, that neither the Judges, the Lawyers, nor the People, understand what were the Laws of Canada previous to the Conquest. There has been no certainty on any object of Litigation, except in such matters as regarded the Possession, Transmission; or Alienation of Landed Property, where the Custom of Paris is very clear. I cannot, therefore, suppose that this Honourable House will consider it incumbent on them to gratify the prejudices of a part of the People, on a point of so much importance to the whole; an Object that must continue, and perhaps encrease, that confusion which has too long prevailed in the Province, and which has brought the Courts into Disrespect, and occasioned much uneasiness among the People.

I shall hope that this Honourable House will repeal the Whole of the Quebec Act in compliance with the desires of my Constituents, French and English, as being a Statute extremely obnoxious to them. One or two short Clauses added to the new Bill, will provide for every part of that Act which is necessary to be retained.—We shall, perhaps, find it sufficiently difficult to explain and understand the new Law; but it must greatly encrease our difficulties if we are obliged to revert to the Quebec Act to know the full extent of our new Constitution.

My Constituents wish to receive from the British Parliament a new and compleat constitution, unclogged and unembarrassed with any Laws prior to this period. Acts explaining Acts, or amending Acts, however they may be proper and  
necessary