

to give their time and attendance for nothing; that *Mons. Lotbiniere*, on a question being put to him, Whether he did not think the English laws the best for the Canadians in general? said, "I make no doubt but your laws are good and wise, and make you a happy people, but I do not think they are suited to every climate." His Lordship afterwards entered much upon the subjects of juries, and said, the Canadians could have but a bad opinion of English juries, when a grand jury there had presented the Roman Catholics as a nuisance; he said, the Canadians, in their petition to the Throne, had desired to have the whole of their ancient laws restored to them which this Bill was meant to do; that in his opinion, the trial by jury was not necessary there: and that by what he had been informed, the French laws were sufficient to protect property without it; that people had very industriously circulated a report that he had made a ministerial question of this; he would assure the House, upon his honour, he had not; that, after once fixing the Government of Quebec, in the hands of this nation, it was a matter of indifference to him what law or religion was established, so it made the people happy; that the British merchants staying their property would not be secure without English laws, let gentlemen recollect that British merchants trade to all parts of the world, and think their property secure in Portugal or Spain, where they know the Roman Catholic religion is the religion of the land, and that the number of old or English subjects in Canada were so few in number, that the cries of 150,000 ought to be given way to in preference of 350.

*Serjeant Glynn* recapitulated the parts of the evidence which the noble Lord had so ingeniously selected; he said, the noble Lord had laid great stress on the imprudence of the grand jury presenting the Roman Catholics

as a nuisance, and seemed to think, for that reason, they ought to have the trial by jury taken away; did the noble Lord never recollect, that the British House of Commons had committed equally flagrant acts of injustice; and that, if the reason for abolishing held good in one point, it ought in the other: yet he sincerely hoped that that House would never be taken away; for, bad and corrupt as it was believed to be by ignorant people, it still remained some safeguard to the nation; he afterwards launched forth into the praise of juries, and mentioned many particular circumstances where juries had been found extremely beneficial to the welfare of the publick; he afterwards stated the account of the seizing the papers of *Mr. Wilkes*, the General Warrants, &c. &c. He said, all State causes would be carried as desired, was it not for juries: he mentioned the affair of *Hampden* concerning Ship-money, and concluded with saying, that the 10th day of June 1774 would be handed down to posterity as a day when the Members of a British House of Commons preferred Popery and French laws to the established religion and laws of their own country; and, at the same time, that trials by jury, which their forefathers accounted a blessing, they deemed a curse.

The *Attorney General* said, he did not agree with the Honorable and Learned Gentleman, that whoever was against the allowing a trial by jury in that Bill thought the mode a curse; far from it; he had himself, in many cases, often thought the trial by jury a great blessing; yet it would be highly imprudent, unparliamentary, ridiculous, and absurd, to establish a clause at the end of the Bill (as it must be), which clause would entirely repeal that clause in the body of the Bill which allows the Canadians all their ancient laws; or would