

“ The present code of laws, *if the mixture of French and English laws may so be called*, not being well understood, the execution of them is subject to much difficulty and uncertainty; among other inconveniencies, *persons often claim the right of both*, and take the advantage of that which best suits their purpose; by these, and other means, the payment of debts are evaded, and right and property is rendered uncertain and insecure. The losses the British merchants have suffered from this evil within the last three years, has occasioned the ruin of many, and such is the present want of confidence, and want of credit, in consequence of these disasters, that *common ruin and general distress must ensue*, if some effectual remedy be not immediately applied.”

“ From the petitions delivered last year to the Right Honourable Lord Sydney, signed by upwards of 1800 of the principal inhabitants—from the letters lately addressed to us from the Committee of Quebec and Montreal on this subject, (copies of which are hereto annexed) *and moreover from our own knowledge, and the particular information our connections in that country afford us*, we are clearly and unanimously of opinion, that for the relief and redress of these evils, and the many other defects of the present constitution of that government, *a provincial legislature or house of assembly established*