

got some footing. The governors and officers of justice *always* doubtful which to take for their guide, sometimes preferring the English, sometimes the French laws, as each seemed applicable to the case before them—One year a proclamation, another year an instruction to a governor, another year a local ordinance, changed the principle, and varied the course of their judiciary proceedings.—In this state of fluctuation, no man knew by what right he could take, or give, inherit, or convey, possess, or enjoy property; or by what mode or rule he could bring his right to a trial. One necessary consequence was a frequent resort to the crown for amendment, explanation, and decision; “*cujus est condere, ejus est interpretari.*”—And what less than despotism is the power of the crown, when it can create or interpret,