

The laws of England were introduced into Upper Canada in 1791, and still prevail, subject to the various alterations made from time to time by the local parliament. The laws of France as they existed at the conquest of Canada by Britain prevail in Lower Canada, subject also to the alterations effected by the local parliament. The criminal and commercial laws of England prevail there, as in Upper Canada. The Parliament of Canada have and exercise entire control over the province. The Imperial Government never interfere now, unless (which scarcely ever occurs) some great national interest is involved.

The municipal system of Canada is admirably adapted to the exigencies of a young and vigorous country; its success has been complete. In order to comprehend it, it is necessary to state that Upper Canada is divided into counties, forty-two in number; each county is divided into townships; so that, on an average, each township is about ten miles square. The inhabitants of a township elect five "Councillors;" the Councillors elect out of this number a presiding officer, who is designated the "Town Reeve;" the Town Reeves of the different townships form the "County Council;" this Council elect their presiding officer, who is styled the "Warden." The Town Council and County Council are Municipal Corporations, possessing the power to raise money for municipal purposes, such as making public improvements, opening and repairing roads and bridges. Repayment is secured by a tax on all the property in the township or county where the debt is incurred; but no bye-law for raising money can be enforced, unless it has been previously submitted to the electors, or people. Each corporation possesses the power of suing and is liable to be sued, and their bye-laws, if illegal, are subject to be annulled by the Superior Courts of the province, at the instance of any elector.

Each Township Council has the power to provide for the support of common schools under the provisions of the school law; to construct roads, bridges and water-courses, &c., to appoint path-masters or road-inspectors, &c. The County Councils are charged with the construction and repairs of gaols and court-houses, roads and bridges, houses of correction, and grammar schools, under the provisions of the school-law; to grant moneys by loan to public works tending to the improvement of the country, and to levy taxes for the redemption of the debts incurred, subject to the proviso before mentioned, namely, the vote of the people. Villages not having a population over 1,000 are governed by a board of police, and are styled Police Villages; possessing over 1,000 inhabitants they become incorporated villages, and are governed by a Council of five, whose Reeve is a member of the County Council, *ex officio*; as soon as a village acquires a population exceeding three thousand, it becomes a town governed by a