

Laws of France composed the System of Canadian Jurisprudence previous to the Conquest ; or even if there was any positive System, particularly for Commercial Transactions. It is intended by making the Quebec Act the foundation of the new Bill, that we shall remain in the same state of Doubt and Uncertainty, which has already given us so much trouble ; or that we are, in the new Legislature, to combat the prejudices and prepossessions of those our fellow subjects, who being unacquainted with the nature, the principles, or circumstances of Mercantile and Personal Transactions, are little inclined to favour them ? I might instance Scotland in this particular—how strenuously did the people of that country contend at the Union, to preserve the whole of their own Laws ? I believe it will be allowed that the Reservation has not been favourable to that part of the Kingdom ; and the People of Scotland were at that time much more enlightened than the Canadians are now.

Sir, this Honourable House may perhaps be told that many of the French Canadians esteem the Quebec Act ; that some of them have expressed their Approbation of it in Petitions to his Majesty ; and therefore that great Respect ought to be paid to the prejudices and prepossessions of those People. Sir, I have a very high respect for the prejudices of Education ; every person, I suppose, has felt the Effects of them ; they often proceed from the most amiable motives ; and I have known Men of the best Hearts and of sound understandings greatly influenced by them ;—but because I respect these natural defects in my Neighbours, would it be fair, or honourable in me to foster, cherish, and encourage them ?

Is it conferring any favour on a people to nurse and feed prepossessions, which, from their very name must be considered as Faults or Blemishes ? No, Sir, for though it would be extremely wrong to wound the feelings of a People by attempting rudely to eradicate their prejudices ; yet I consider it as the duty of Government, in kindness to its Subjects, to weed out these prejudices gently and by degrees.

The French Canadians have now been Thirty Years subject to the British Empire ; they have had time to acquire  
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