

moment of the conquest, all the courts of justice that were at that time in being in the colony, and even the several officers that composed them, upon the same footing on which they then subsisted. But as your Majesty's said general did immediately suppress all the former jurisdictions, and erect military councils in their stead, and in the articles of capitulation *refused to promise the inhabitants of this province the continuance of the custom of Paris, and the other ancient laws and usages by which they had been governed*, though requested in that behalf by the French general;—and as your Majesty did afterwards, in the fourth article of the definitive treaty of peace in 1763, engage to indulge your new Canadian subjects even in the delicate and important article of the free exercise of their religion, only *so far as the laws of England will permit*;—and as your Majesty, by your royal proclamation of the 7th of November 1763, did encourage your British and other ancient subjects to go and settle in this and the other new-erected governments, and did promise them, as an excitement thereunto, *the immediate enjoyment of the benefit of the laws of England*;—and as your Majesty did afterwards, by your commission of vice admiral of this province granted to General Murray, *expressly introduce all the laws of the English courts of admiralty into this province*; and by your commission to the same gentleman to be captain general and governour in chief of this province, did direct him to summon an assembly of the freeholders and planters in this province, and in conjunction with them *to make laws and ordinances not repugnant to the laws of England*, by which it seems to be pre-supposed that the laws of England were already introduced there; and did in other parts of the said commission *allude to divers of the laws of England as being already in force here, as particularly the laws relating to the oaths of abjuration and supremacy, and the declaration against transubstantiation*—From these several exertions of your Majesty's royal authority in favour of the laws of England, your Majesty's attorney general of this province humbly collects it to have been your Majesty's gracious intention to assimilate this province in religion, laws, and government to the other dominions belonging to your Majesty's crown in North America; he therefore conceives that the immediate revival of all the French laws relating to civil suits in this province, in the manner suggested in the foregoing report, will have at least the appearance of a deviation from the plan of conduct which your Majesty has hitherto adopted, and of a step towards a preference of