

They may be very good men in their respective stations, but certainly they cannot come under the denomination of the most respectable of the Canadians; and yet, such as they are, they may be the most respectable amongst those, who, in 1784, signed the petition for an House of Assembly.

The people of Canada are in fact well satisfied with the present form of government; their personal liberty is secured to them by an Ordinance, recommended by his Excellency, Governor Haldimand, and passed the 29th April, 1784, which gives them the benefit of the Writ of Habeas Corpus, in as ample a manner as their fellow subjects, in England, enjoy it; their property is protected by the laws, usages, and customs of Canada, to which, by long experience of their fitness for their country, they are strongly attached. Their laws are by no means unfavourable to commerce; they are peculiarly adapted to prevent insolvent debtors from giving undue preference to favoured creditors; and, as such, if the London merchants knew *their own real interests*, ought to be prayed to be continued, instead of being desired to be abrogated by them. The Edict of 1673, or *Code Marchand*, as it is generally called, is far from being anti-commercial. It was not
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