

licitor General, relative to Quebec. This was also carried in the negative, upon a division of 85 to 45.

June 2. The House in Committee on the Quebec Bill. General Carleton called in and examined.

Mr. Mackworth. What was the proceedings and course of justice in Canada, when you first went there?

General Carleton. There is a Court of King's Bench, and a Court of Common Pleas, in which the proceedings are in the English form.

Mr. Mackworth. Did the Canadians express a dislike to the distribution of justice in that form?

Gen. Carleton. In some things they did, in others they did not. I never heard them express a disapprobation of the criminal law of England; but in relation to the law in civil trials, they have disapproved it greatly.

Mr. Mackworth. Did they disapprove the trial by jury?

Gen. Carleton. Very much; they have often said to me, that they thought it very extraordinary that English Gentlemen should think their property safer in the determination of taylor, shoemakers, mixed with people in trade, than in that of the Judges.

Mr. T. Townshend. But if they had juries such as they approved of, would they then object to the English civil law?

Gen. Carleton. Their objections to that law are very numerous; they do not know what it is; and they expressed great apprehensions at being governed by a law of which they were ignorant: they also complained of the proceedings of the Courts being in a language they did not understand.

Lord North. Did the General hear them complain of the want of the trial by jury in civil causes?

Gen. Carleton. Never. Though I have heard the same men praise the English law in points wherein it favoured their own causes, who at other times were much against it.

Lord North. Did they express wishes of having an assembly?

Gen. Carleton. Very much the contrary. In the conversation I have had with them, they have all said that when they found what disputes the other Colonies had with the Crown, upon account of Assemblies, they would much rather be without them; and when they supposed that an assembly, if they had one, would be chosen from the old British subjects only, they expressed an horror at the idea of one.

Lord North. Does the General know the proportion of old subjects to those of new ones in Canada?

Gen. Carleton. The Protestants in Canada are under four hundred; about three hundred and sixty; but the French inhabitants, who are all Catholics, amount to one hundred and fifty thousand.

Lord North. Are those three hundred and sixty, men of substance?

Gen. Carleton. Much the greatest part of them are not. There are some that have purchased seignories, some in trade, and some reduced soldiers: but the majority are men of small substance.

Mr. Jenkinson. Is there much intercourse or communication between those three hundred and sixty and the rest of the province?

Gen. Carleton. Very little.

Lord North. Are those people, upon the whole, proper and eligible for an Assembly to be chosen from them?