

drawn up by a member of the Civil Service, and with what result I have told you.

The bill was as follows, Mr. Lareau's last suggestions being in italics:—

An Act to repeal articles 696 and 697, of the Revised Statutes, and to substitute therefor the articles mentioned therein.

Whereas, it is expedient to repeal articles 696 and 697 of the Revised Statutes of the Province of Quebec, and to substitute therefor certain other articles; Therefore, Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislature of Quebec, enacts as follows:

1. Articles 696 and 697, of the Revised Statutes, are hereby repealed and the following substituted therefor:

696. The creditor of any public official or employee, must, before instituting an action for debt (*assumpsit*), or an attachment against his salary, present his claim, duly attested and accompanied with vouchers, to the head or deputy-head of the department where such official is employed.

2. If the latter authorizes its payment, the head or deputy-head shall direct the accountant to pay the same out of the instalments of the salary of such official or employee liable to seizure.

3. In this case no costs of suit are charged against the official.

4. Should the official refuse to give the above authorization within three days from the receipt of the claim by the head or deputy-head of the department, it shall be lawful for the creditor to institute an action, or to take out an attachment, as the case may be.

5. No transfer or assignment of such seizable portion of salary, made in future, can avail against any creditor of such public official or employee.

697. If two or more creditors present judgments, or claims admitted as above, the portion of salary available shall be divided between them in proportion to their respective claims.

2. This Act shall come into force on the day of its sanction.

Your obedient servant,

ADVOCATE.

THE QUEEN'S SUPREMACY IN QUEBEC.

The recent debates upon the "Jesuits' Estates Act" have raised three questions:—First, Does the Act 1st Elizabeth, establishing the Royal Supremacy, extend to this Province? Second, To what extent does it so extend? Third, Does anything in the "Jesuits' Estates Act" conflict with the Royal

Supremacy? This last question is a very difficult one, inasmuch as there is no statutory definition of the Royal Supremacy. It could only be settled by a court of high authority. For our part we prefer to adopt the opinion of that very sensible person in the "Acts of the Apostles," the Town Clerk of Ephesus, and say "the law is open and there are deputies, let them implead one another."

But when anyone goes on to say that the Act 1st Elizabeth is not in force in this Province in any of its provisions, and that it is effete, and that the Legislature of Quebec, or in fact the House of Commons at Ottawa, has power to derogate from it, we would demur and would refer him to the Consolidated Statutes of Canada, p. xi., where, among the Imperial Statutes still in force, will be found the 14th George III., cap. 83. The later revision does not touch this and could not, because it is provided, by the Imperial Act 28-29 Vic., cap. 63, that any colonial law repugnant to any Imperial Act extending to such colony is *pro tanto* void. Moreover, oddly enough, we may be assured that the 14th George III., cap. 83, is now in force, because, to this instant, the Church of Rome is collecting its tithes by the operation of the very same section of it, which declares the 1st Elizabeth to be in force. So that every time a *curé* invokes the law to collect his accustomed dues he must admit it, for there is no other law but that section by which he can recover. Almost every week the perpetual operation to some extent of the 1st Elizabeth is admitted by implication in the courts of this Province. The section we refer to is sec. 5 of 14 George III., cap. 83, and reads thus:—

"And, for the more perfect security and ease of the minds of the inhabitants of the said Province, it is hereby declared: That His Majesty's subjects professing the religion of the Church of Rome of and in the said Province of Quebec may have, hold, and enjoy the free exercise of the religion of the Church of Rome, subject to the King's Supremacy, declared and established by an Act made in the first year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, over all the dominions and countries which then did or thereafter should belong to the Imperial Crown of this realm; and that the