

(No. III.)

Extracts from the Report of the Committee of Merchants of Quebec, to the Committee of Council dated January 1788.

OBSERVATION ON ACT 10.

“ THE King’s proclamation of October 1763, promised the future settlers in this province, the benefit of the laws of England ; these laws were accordingly introduced by an ordinance of the Governor and Council in *September 1764*, but unfortunately abrogated in all civil causes, by the act of the 14 Geo. 3. cap. 83 ; which statute *instead of remedying temporary abuses, introduced great evils*, particularly to the trading part of the nation. The merchants in England, and those of this province, have *severely felt the effects and disposition of laws, to which they were utter strangers*, the principles whereof, are anti-commercial altogether.—”

“ *The custom of Canada is a system so imperfect and defective*, that the decisions in the courts, have become *arbitrary, and destitute of uniformity*. —The Court of Montreal differs in practice as well as decrees in some points of law, from that
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