

In the first place, the English judges, who will, as we presume, always be employed to administer justice in this province, would have a short and plain rule to go by, which they would easily be able to make themselves masters of, and would not be liable to be puzzled and misled by artful French lawyers, partially citing and misrepresenting and misapplying the doctrines and cases contained in the French law books.

And in the second place, the English inhabitants in general would have the satisfaction of knowing easily and certainly what the laws of the province were, upon what conditions they purchased lands or houses, what rights of alienating or devising them they thereby acquired, what duties to your Majesty, their lords or their tenants, they were bound to, and in what manner their wives and children would enjoy their possessions after their decease.

These would be no inconsiderable advantages resulting from the composition of such a code, even though done in a very imperfect manner. But there is another and greater advantage with which, as we conceive, this measure would be attended, which is the removing from the minds of the Canadians all idea of the excellency of the French laws and government, and of the superiour skill and ability of French lawyers and judges, bred in the parliament of Paris, and consequently of the happiness of having their law-suits decided by them. For we apprehend that, as long as the French laws and customs subsist at large without being reduced into a code, so that the several French law-books, books of reports, and edicts of the French king are the books of authority upon the subject, to which recourse must be had continually in the decision of points of law, so long will the people of this province retain a reverence for those edicts, reports, and other law-books, and for the authority of the French king who made the edicts, and for the parliament of Paris that has made the decisions reported in the books of reports, and the other learned French authors who have composed the other treatises on this subject; and this reverence will be accompanied with a continuance of their liking for that government from which these good laws and edicts and law-books proceeded, and under which they might be most ably administered, and consequently with a secret wish to return to that government, that is, to return to their