

Sir, though the present Bill declares, in the Preamble, that the Quebec Act is, "in many respects, inapplicable to the Condition and Circumstances of the Province." yet it only proposes to repeal one Clause. Will it be considered as doing Justice to the Declaration in the Preamble, or to the Petitioners, or to the Province, to declare thus publicly, that the Act is pernicious in *many* Respects, and to give the necessary Relief only in *one* point? I have examined the Quebec Act with a good deal of care, but have not been able to perceive any powerful Reason for which it ought to be preserved. There are nine distinct Heads or Clauses in that Act, and I cannot see any thing in them, individually or collectively, which makes it necessary to build the new Constitution thereon.

Not, surely, the First Clause, which regards the Limits of the Province, as these are materially changed by the Treaty of Peace of 1783. Not the Second, which repeals the former Ordinances; as they of course, were entirely done away. Not the third Head, which relates to Religion; that is sufficiently provided for in the new Bill, Not the fourth, which establishes the ancient Laws of Canada—so much of them as are necessary can be easily provided for in the new Bill. Nor the fifth, which regards the granting of Lands—that is settled in the new Bill. Not the sixth, which establishes the English Criminal Law; as that can be incorporated in the new Bill. Not the seventh Head, which establishes the Legislative Council; as that is repealed by the first Clause of the new Bill. Not the eighth, which impowers his Majesty to erect Courts; as this object ought to be expressly provided for in the new Bill. Nor the ninth, which establishes the operation of certain Acts of Parliament; as that is provided for by the new Bill.—In short I cannot perceive any Reason for retaining that Act as part of the new Constitution. Sir, I have understood Government were fully convinced, that what is called in the Quebec Act "*the Laws of Canada,*" had not yet been defined; that, though Sixteen Years have now elapsed since that Act began to Operate, it is yet to be determined, what, or how many of the
Laws