

son who was supreme among them; and as he conversed little with any other Canadians, except such as are of the predicament last mentioned, he naturally enough conceived, that the opinions he heard were the sentiments of the Canadian nation, and that an entire revival of the French law would firmly attach every Canadian. This idea was encouraged by some about him, who felt that power in him would in effect be power to them. Full of this idea he came to England, and induced government to accede to part only of his plan, and to forward the act of parliament, which has been commonly called the Quebec Act; by which, though the law of Canada was permitted to be the rule of decision in all civil questions; yet the law of England was to prevail in all criminal cases; and the reconciling the discordant parts of these two laws was left to be the performance of a Council, composed of persons generally very well disposed, who by their situation on the spot, might be justly presumed to be possessed of all the information necessary to fit them for the minute parts of the business in settling the province. But as it had been suggested, that by this act the trial by Jury was utterly abolished in all civil causes, and that no provision was made for the security of personal liberty; to take away these pretences for discontent, soon after the act was passed, his Majesty was graciously pleased, by his royal instructions