

no appeal. Two Magistrates must be present; and they are authorized to decide on all actions under forty shillings, after hearing the testimony of the plaintiff alone; but for any sum greater than this, if it is not liquidated by note or some other acknowledgment, one witness at least beside the plaintiff must attest the debt. This, I think, is placing power enough in unskilful hands. Although £4 or £5 may appear to be a small sum in the eyes of Europeans, yet there are few farmers in Canada that are able to pay a fifth part of it in specie; though probably as few will be found worth less than £1,000 in property. An unjust decision, the result either of ignorance or partiality, or both, might therefore be attended with very serious consequences to such persons. I have not unfrequently seen the property of Canadian farmers, who possessed extensive and fertile estates, sold for taxes that did not exceed fourteen or fifteen shillings. Such is the scarcity of specie in the country!

The magistrates in Canada are sufficiently numerous, and are entitled to payment for every duty which they perform in virtue of their office. In many parts of the country, their business is very lucrative. Nine-tenths of the marriages which take place in the Upper Province, are solemnized by these sapient dispensers of the law; and though the sum which they may legally claim, for the performance of the marriage-ceremony, is only five shillings, yet they generally receive from three