

The first note of warning as to his qualifications, the first startling piece of information which called public attention to Mr. Angers, and very deservedly brought down upon his head the indignant censure of the independent and right-thinking portion of the press, was his refusal to grant his *fiat* to the issue of a writ of error, ordered by the Court of Queen's Bench. The squandering of the public monies is bad enough in all conscience, but it is a mere trifle as compared with the personal liberty of the subject, which fortunately cannot be infringed without the risk of leading to very serious trouble. The boast of every British subject, since the days when the bold barons stood forth with arms in their hands on the banks of Runnymede, has been that his personal liberty is sacred, and can be interfered with only through the properly constituted tribunals and by a judgment of his peers. The jealousy which guards this right is peculiarly English, it finds its expression in the *habeas corpus*, a protection afforded wherever the Anglo-Saxon predominates, and nowhere else. Somehow, the French Canadian portion of the community seem never to have been able to appreciate at their just value, the safeguards which the English Constitution has so carefully thrown round the person of the subject. They have, no doubt, made a step in advance of the days when they petitioned so earnestly against parliamentary institutions and trials by jury, but they never have been able thoroughly to realize the advantages secured by it, since confederation, especially the faction which has ruled in the Province of Quebec, has given unmistakable signs of a desire to return to old French rules and customs. The only thing they seemed to require, was the accession to a high legal office of a bold, arbitrary and thoroughly ignorant man like Mr. Angers, in order to lead to the irregularities, to use a very mild expression, which we are now called upon to deplore. No other Attorney-General, however incompetent, has ever ventured upon an exercise of arbitrary, wilful malice, so cruel in its motive, so lawless in its method, as that displayed by Mr. Angers in the case of the man named McGrath. Had the prisoner died during the term of his confinement, Mr. Angers would most certainly have found himself with his right hand uplifted in the dock, and would furthermore richly have deserved such punishment as the law with no lenient hand at times awards to the crime of manslaughter. The organization of the Provincial Police into a body of French *gensdarmes*, at first chiefly used for purposes of intimidation