

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 18

might know how to obey them. But these are objections which, as we before observed, would probably be made by a few persons only, and not by the generality of your Majesty's new subjects.

Conclusion.

Thus we have set forth to your Majesty at considerable length (but not greater, we hope, than the importance of the subject required) the different methods by which your Majesty's gracious intention of settling the laws of this province upon a solid and permanent foundation for the time to come, and of leaving to your Majesty's new Canadian subjects the enjoyment of some of their ancient laws and customs that are most necessary to their tranquillity and satisfaction, may be carried into execution, together with the several advantages and disadvantages with which we apprehend that each of them will be attended. To weigh these advantages and disadvantages against each other, and draw a final balance in favour of one of these methods in preference to the rest, or to find a new method preferable to them all, is a task to which we find ourselves unequal, and which we apprehend can be successfully performed only by the wisdom of your Majesty's counsels. By residing in the province we may have been able perhaps, by our observation of the state of things here, to furnish your Majesty with necessary information and materials for forming a decisive judgment upon the subject; and that, in obedience to your Majesty's commands, we have endeavoured to do faithfully and fully, and to the best of our abilities, in this report. That our endeavours may be acceptable to your Majesty, and may be esteemed rather according to the zeal and integrity by which they have been directed, than according to the degree in which they may be found to answer the high purposes to which they were intended to be subservient, is the earnest wish of,

Your Majesty's Most loyal and devoted
SUBJECTS AND SERVANTS.

N.B. The foregoing draught of a report, which was prepared by Francis Maseres, Esquire, his Majesty's attorney general of the province of Quebec, by order of Guy Carleton, Esquire, the governour of the said province, was delivered in to the said governour on the 27th day of February 1769, but had not the good fortune to be approved by his excellency. Another report¹ was thereupon drawn up by other hands agreeable to the governour's sentiments, in which his excellency has omitted the consideration of all the public acts and instruments whereby the English law has been introduced, or attempted to be introduced, into that province, together with some other matters contained

¹ Up to the present, this Report has not been discovered among the State Papers.