

da. It had been urged, that by such means we could separate the English and French inhabitants of the province; that we could distinguish who were originally French, from those of English origin. But was this to be desired? Was it not rather to be avoided? Was it agreeable to general political expediency? The most desirable circumstance was, that the French and English inhabitants of Canada should unite and coalesce, as it would form into one body; and that the different distinctions of people might be extinguished for ever. If this had been the object in view, the English laws might soon have prevailed universally throughout Canada; not from force, but from choice, and conviction of their superiority. He had no doubt that, on a fair trial, they would be found free from all objection. The inhabitants of Canada had adopted the laws of France. The commercial code was never established there: they stood upon the exceedingly inconvenient *custom of Paris*. He wished the people of the country to adopt the English laws from choice, and not from force; and he did not think the division of the province the most likely means to bring about this desirable end. In his opinion, this bill was also objectionable so far as it related to the trial by jury, and the habeas corpus act, which the Canadians were said to enjoy by an ordinance of the province. It was stated by one of the counsel at the bar, that either the ordinance, which gave the inhabitants the trial by jury, or that which afforded them the benefit of the habeas corpus, would expire before the bill could pass into a law. If this were true it was a strong objection to the bill, and ought to be remedied. He trusted that the House would also seriously consider the particular situation of Canada. It was not to be compared to the West Indies: it was a country of a different nature: it did not consist of a few white inhabitants and a number of slaves; but it was a country of great growing population, which had increased very much, and which he hoped would increase much more. It was a country capable of enjoying as much political freedom, in its most extent, as any other country on the face of the globe.