

# THE QUEEN vs. JOSEPH CHASSON.

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felony, and bringing the long established and uniform rights of the public into contradiction, confusion and contempt? No such adjudication upon matters of discretion and practice is to be found in the English books, and I think, I may safely say was never before heard of in any country. As to assuming jurisdiction by the Supreme Court, which it does not possess, I will be somewhat particular in explaining this proposition, as it is of great importance to the public—the *salus populi*. It is not generally known that the Court in which His Honor the Chief Justice presided in Bathurst (excepting Parliament) is the highest Court of Criminal Jurisdiction ever known to the British Crown. The Chief Justice by right of office being the Supreme Justiciary of criminal law for public rights throughout the land. The Court itself is nothing less in criminal jurisdiction than the *aula regis*, the great Court of the King, ever since the Norman conquest, of more than eight hundred years standing. It existed in full power long before the division of the four Courts at Westminster, and one hundred and fifty years prior to the great Charter. It has taken the place and power of the Justices in eyre, as a Court of Assizes, (nisi prius), Oyer and Terminer and jail delivery, (see *Reeve's His. of Eng. law*) and the matter fully discussed as to the original jurisdiction and powers of this Court. *In re Fernandes*, 6 H. & N. 717 10 Com. B. N. S. 25, particularly on its power to commit, for contempt, which no other Court can interfere with, by EARL, C. J. and WILLIS, J., and by our Act of Assembly, 17 Vic. ch. 19, all those powers are combined in a single Judge with no more right to appeal from his judgment, to the Court at Fredericton than from the Court at Fredericton to the Court at Bathurst, and the judgments of the Chief Justice in his Court of Assizes and jail delivery at Bathurst have the same unappealable force and absolute finality as if pronounced by the Chief Justice and the full Bench on a trial at Bar at Fredericton. There never was, nor is there now any appeal as of right, from one Court to the other. No new trial nor venire de novo can be granted in felony. No writ of error can be granted to a higher Court except by permission of the Attorney General. Nor will any bill of exceptions lie, and the Court, as of right, is absolute, exclusive and final in its jurisdiction and power, and no other Court can interfere with it. For centuries, however, until a late period it was the usual course in England where an objection was taken on the part of the prisoner which the Judge in the trial considered well founded in law, to defer giving judgment until the next Assizes, and in the meantime take the advice of the Judges upon the question, but the Act of Parliament 11 & 12, Vic. ch. 78, passed in 1848, enacted that when any person was or is convicted of any felony, etc., before any Court, etc., the Judge before whom