

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 report 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 in the foregoing report; and instead of mentioning several different methods of settling the laws of that province for the future, with the several advantages and disadvantages that would probably attend each of the proposed methods, and leaving it wholly to his Majesty's wisdom to chuse one of the methods in preference to the others, as is done in the foregoing report, his excellency has thought fit to mention only one method of settling the laws of the province, which he strongly recommends to his Majesty, as the only way of doing justice and giving satisfaction to the Canadians, which is, to continue the laws of England with respect to criminal matters, but to revive the whole body of the French laws that were in use there before the conquest with respect to civil matters. The chief justice, William Hey, Esquire, and attorney general of the province, not thinking it either necessary or expedient to revive the whole body of the French laws in civil matters, but only those parts of them (which indeed are very considerable) which related to the tenure, alienation, dower, and inheritance of landed property, and the distribution of the effects of persons who die intestate, delivered in to the governour two additional papers, or lesser reports, containing their reasons for not wholly agreeing to the report made by his excellency. And these three reports were delivered to Maurice Morgan, Esquire, about the 12th of September 1769, to be by him carried to England, and delivered to his Majesty's secretary of state for America. The additional paper, or lesser report, of the attorney general was intitled his opinion concerning the governour's report, and was as follows.