

stances, and it is the view adopted by the writer in the *Canada Law Journal* of February, 1871, of an article on the jurisdiction of the Courts of General Sessions of the Peace in case of perjury; in which article the question of the origin and jurisdiction of these Courts is considered and dealt with so fully as really to leave but little to be said on the subject.

It is almost unnecessary to say that the criminal law of England was introduced by royal proclamation into the then Province of Quebec in 1763, a few months after the cession of that Province to Great Britain under the Treaty of Paris, and that on the extension of the limits of that Province so as to include all the present Province of Ontario, by the Imperial Act 14 Geo. III. chapter 83, it was by the 11th section of that Act, after praising the certainty and lenity of the criminal law of England and the benefits and advantages resulting from the use of it, which had been sensibly felt by the inhabitants from an experience of nine years, during which it had been uniformly administered, enacted that the same should continue to be administered and should be observed as law in the Province of Quebec, as well in the description and quality of the offence as in the method of prosecution and trial; and that by the Provincial Act 40 George III. chapter 1, passed in July, 1800, after reciting the Imperial Act just referred to, it was enacted that the criminal law of England, as it stood on the 17th September, 1792 (being the date of the meeting of the first Provincial Parliament), should be and was declared to be the criminal law of the Province.

I think, then, it may be fairly assumed that the Courts of General Quarter Sessions of the Peace in the Province of Upper Canada possessed whatever jurisdiction the same Courts had in England on the 17th September, 1792.

As the County of Lincoln was settled early in the history of this country, the first Parliament of the Province being held within its limits, I was in hopes of finding some old commissions of the peace which might throw light on the mode in which they were originally issued. The earliest in date that I have been able to find, however, was issued