

bring his right to a trial. One necessary consequence was a frequent resort to the crown for amendment, explanation, and decision; "cujus est condere, ejus est interpretari."---And what less than despotism is the power of the crown, when it can create or interpret, establish or destroy laws, by virtue of its own mandates?

The condition of these wretched people under this government, is described by Lord Coke in the very motto which he chose for his works, "misera est servitus ubi jus est vagum aut incognitum." I need not tell your Lordship that the parliament of Henry VIII. gave the King's proclamations the power of the law; it must give some comfort to all sober people to see the parliament of this day annul the force of a proclamation, in order to establish law.---If therefore I can agree with you, my Lord, in thinking the King's ministers are so atrocious as to have formed any plan of despotism, I must agree with you also, that they are more inept and shallow in the execution, since they have let go the very power which you say they grasp at; and if, my Lord, there could ever be a proper time to insult the King's person with a cry of arbitrary power, surely, my Lord, there could have been no time less seasonable than that, when he was going to give his assent in parliament to restore to the Canadians their birth-right in their laws, and to relinquish that very power which conquest had put in his hands.

This proclamation, however, we are told with the treaty, and other acts of royal authority, was considered as an engagement, under which the colonists embarked their persons, and the merchants their fortunes for Canada, and that the national faith was pledged to form a government *as near as may be* agreeable to the laws of England; for it is said, that none would have embarked or traded thither, without the prospect