

of the Imperial Statute passed in the 6th *George IV.*, and more familiarly known as the Tenure Act, and cannot therefore receive effect, and because neither the Treaties nor the decisions of *Great Britain*, which are considered the safest and soundest expositions of international Law upon subjects of individual rights, such as the doctrine of alienage and allegiance, are carried to a greater extent by their peculiar code and constitution than in any other Country. There is not an instance, however on record, in which *Great Britain*, by any Act of Parliament or Order in Council, has attempted to deprive the inhabitants of a conquered or ceded territory of their rights of property. The two cases of this Country, (up to the commencement of this present Session of this Legislature, when the Seigniorial Act of 1854 was passed, and assented to on the eighteenth of December last,) and *Trinidad*, are exemplifications of this fact, to which may be added that of the *Floridas*.

FIFTHLY.—Because the Legislature has no right to interfere with contracts or agreements voluntarily entered into between two parties, in good faith, under the sanction of their respective titles, and confirmed by the Courts of jurisprudence of the Province, and because this Bill sets aside and annuls these contracts and agreements without consulting the parties who made them. It is unjust that the Seigniors should be ousted of their property without any Petition on their part to the Legislature for a Commutation Act, having been to the present time considered and declared by the Government, a distinct class from the body of the inhabitants of this Country.

SIXTHLY.—Because a Bill of such an extraordinary nature, and on such an important subject, was passed in this present Session on the eve of the adjournment, and the present Bill to amend the said Seigniorial Act of 1854, containing several new Clauses and new principles, has received its second reading at a time when there was a very thin attendance of Members in the House, scarcely little more than a Quorum, also on the eve of a long expected Prorogation, and that parties interested have not hardly had time to receive Copies of this Bill, as lately amended, by the Legislative Assembly, (the French version of the said Bill not being yet printed, for those interested, not speaking nor reading the English language,) and of examining a measure that is depriving them of their legal rights of property, and also particularly at a time when several large Proprietors of Seigniories are expecting that their Petition to Her Gracious Majesty, praying Her to disallow and to refuse Her Royal sanction to the Seigniorial Act of 1854, will be acceded to.

SEVENTHLY.—Because the Bill is restrictive of the rights of proprietors, and prevents them of disposing from such of their appurtenances as may be unproductive to them, but which might yield them large sums were they allowed the free exercise of their judgment in disposing of them to others.

EIGHTHLY.—Because the Bill deprives parties interested of an appeal to Her Majesty in Her Privy Council, when they are aggrieved; whereas, by the Law of the Land, a party aggrieved is entitled to such appeal.