

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 18

me no less Essential, that none of the Principal Officers of Government and Justice, neither Governor, Judge, Secretary, Provost Martial, or Clerk of the Council should receive Fee, Reward or Present from the People, on Pain of the King's Displeasure, tho' an Equivalent should be allowed them by Way of Salary, and that the inferior Officers be restrained to the Fees authorised under the French Government, in order to remove the present Reproach, that our English Justice, and English Offices are calculated to drain the People of the little Substance they have left, as well as to serve as a Barrier to secure the King's Interests, at this Distance from the Throne, from the pestilential Dangers of Avarice and Corruption, for Ages to come.

What Salaries may be necessary to induce Gentlemen of the Law, of Integrity, and Abilities, with a knowledge of the French Language, to come into this Country, I cannot tell; such Characters however are more indispensably necessary in this, than in any other of the King's Provinces, for here, every Fault and Error of the Man becomes a national Reproach; But Men of the Stamp of our present Chief Justice and Attorney General¹ not being allways to be met with, if unexceptionable Characters, such as above described, cannot be procured, it will be better for the Province, to be satisfied with any Men of sound Sense and Probity, it can afford, who with good Intentions, and the Advice and Assistance of these two Gentlemen, may prove of more Service, than an Ignorant, greedy, or Factious set—

I could almost Venture to promise, that in a little Time, the Provincial Duties may pay all the Officers necessary for Government and the Administration of Justice, on the Footing I propose, of procuring Persons properly Qualified without Fees, together with all necessary extraordinary Expences, (I except however sine cure Salaries, and all public Works,) without giving the least Discontent; The Canadians in General, particularly the Gentlemen, greatly disapprove of the Verdict given last year against the Crown, on the Trial for the Duties, and both Canadian and English Merchants, the Colonists excepted, would have fixed the Rates in the Scheme I enclosed to your Lordship in my Letter² (N^o 22) higher, than I thought Judicious for the first Essay; These Things I thought proper to mention at present, least the Œconomy, necessary at Home, might be an Objection to the Arrangements essential to the King's Service, and the Interests of Great Britain—

I am with much Respect and Esteem

Your Lordship's

The Earl of Shelburne One of
His Majesty's Principal
Secretaries of State—

Most Obedient
Humble Servant
GUY CARLETON

¹ Wm. Hey and Francis Maseres.

² The reference is to Carleton's letter to the Treasury, Dec. 10th, 1767, in which was enclosed a table of proposed duties, expenses, &c. See Canadian Archives Q 5-1, p. 300, for the letter, and pp. 306-315, for the tables.