

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 18 -

instructed us concerning those which have been already issued. They are for the good of the Colony, we have shown our Gratitude for the same, and yet now we are made to represent as a hardship by those who are speaking in our name, what we have found to be a benefit.

That we may not further encroach upon Your Majesty's Precious Time, we conclude by assuring You, that without knowing the English Constitution we have during the past four years, enjoyed the Beneficence of the Government, and we should still enjoy it, if Mess^{rs} the English Jurors were as submissive to the wise decisions of the Governor and his Council, as we are; if they were not seeking by new regulations, by the introduction of which they hope to make us their slaves, to change at once the order and administration of Justice, if they were not desirous of making us argue our Family Rights in a foreign tongue, and thereby depriving us of those Persons, who from their knowledge of our Customs, can understand us, settle our differences, and administer Justice at slight expense; using every effort, on the plea of the difference of Religion, to prevent them even from acting as Counsel for their fellow countrymen. This we can only regard as due to the base anxiety for their own interests of those who have suggested such Principles.

We entreat Your Majesty with the deepest and most respectful submission to confirm the system of Justice which has been established for the French, by the deliberations of the Governor and Council, as also the Jurors and all others of different professions, to maintain the Notaries and advocates in the exercise of their functions, to permit us to transact our Family Affairs in our own tongue, to follow our customs, in so far as they are not opposed to the general Wellbeing of the Colony, and to grant that a Law may be published in our Language, together with the Orders of Your Majesty, whose most faithful Subjects, we do, with the most unalterable Respect, hereby declare Ourselves.

The most faithful Subjects.

ORDINANCE OF NOV. 6th 1764¹

An ORDINANCE, For quieting People in their Possessions, and fixing the Age of Maturity.

WHEREAS it appears right and necessary, to quiet the Minds of the People, in Regard to their Possessions, and to remove every Doubt respecting the same, which may any Ways tend to excite and encourage vexatious Law-Suits; and until a Matter of so serious and complicated a Nature, fraught with many and great Difficulties, can be seriously considered, and such Measures therein taken, as may appear the most likely to promote the Well-fare and Prosperity of the Province in general, His Excellency, by and with the Advice and Consent of His Majesty's Council, *Doth hereby*

¹ "Ordinances, made for the Province of Quebec, by the Governor and Council, &c. "Que. 1767, p. 18.