

## SESSIONAL PAPER No. 18

their station. For, without that, they will either neglect the duties of their office, to occupy themselves with the care of their own interests, or they will put Justice up to auction.

ART. XIII.  
Requested.

That appeals from the Courts of Justice of this Province be made to the Lord Chancellor, at the Court of Westminster Hall.

Replied.

That up to the present time we have made appeals to the King and his Council, who have taken our Laws as the guide of their decisions. But what will become of our Rights when brought before a Court which will deviate in nothing from the British Laws & Constitution? And further if the Council of the Province changes your laws, and replaces them by the laws of England, in what confusion and difficulty shall we not be placed? If, on the contrary, they are allowed to remain in force what means of Appeal shall we have in a Court which entirely ignores them.

ART. XIV.  
Requested.

That it may Please His Majesty in the interests of Commerce, and for the encouragement of Agriculture to invest the House of Assembly with power to impose Taxes, &c.

Replied.

That this article duly considered would give rise to many reflections. For what community is there between our requirements & the proximity, the climate, and the situation of the United States which give them the advantage in Trade over us? Would the imposition of Taxes add three months to our summer, and make our river navigable for the whole year? No: then the advantage would still be on our neighbours' side. Would Taxes make our Agriculture flourish? No: for the Seigniors to encourage Agriculture give the lands for three years, exempt from all dues, and the lands often lie uncultivated for lack of means to work them.

What is it then that compensates for the advantages they possess over us? It is the peace that our rural districts have hitherto enjoyed; free from Taxation, and in spite of the severity of the climate, they have seen the fruit of their labours, and have enjoyed it. To this it may be urged that the rural districts are harassed by the billeting of Troops and by *corvées*. This is true, but would the imposition of Taxes exempt them from this burden. Let us see.

When the King considers it necessary to send Troops into this Colony for the safety of our possessions, would any one oppose it? No, this is a right which the King possesses in all his Dominions, without even being obliged to give account of his action. Have we Barracks in a condition for housing these Troops? No; can they live the whole year under canvas? no; then we must either construct Barracks, or lodge them.