

About this time a fearful epidemic made its appearance in the settlement, and it is said nearly one thousand persons fell victims during the autumn, and the following winter. On the fourteenth day of October, Government found it necessary to publish an Ordinance commanding all Justices of the Peace, upon the death of any of the settlers, to name so many of the neighborhood or quarter (not exceeding 12) to which the deceased belonged, to attend at the burial and carry the corpse to the ground, and whoever refused to attend without sufficient reason, should have his name struck off the Mess book and Register of settlers, as unworthy of his Majesty's country. And again, in December, another order commanding all householders to report their dead to a clergyman within twenty-four hours.

The Governor deeming it expedient that some permanent system of law to answer the immediate exigencies of the Colony should be established, a committee of Council was appointed to examine the various systems in force in the old colonies. On the 17th December, Mr. Green reported that after a careful investigation, the laws of Virginia were found to be the most applicable to the present situation of the settlement, and most in accordance with the system already in operation.

On the 2d February, 1750, a law was made, prohibiting the recovery of any debt contracted in England or elsewhere, prior to the establishment of the settlement or to the debtor's arrival in Halifax, in any Court of Law within the Province, except for goods imported into the Colo-