

substituted by the mere will and pleasure of the crown. It was *imperium hominis* that has governed the Canadians since the peace; it is *imperium legis* that is to govern them hereafter. Is it necessary for me to explain to your Lordship which is a state of liberty, and which of tyranny? Conversant with the history and fate of nations, your Lordship knows that all those unhappy people who have lost their liberties, have seen those liberties end precisely where the government of will begin. But your Lordship is pleased to reverse this proposition; and you, who in your love of paradoxes formerly told us that Canada was conquered in Germany, now tell us that this same Canada is enslaved, because it is no longer to be governed by proclamation, but by law.

Let us stop for a moment, to see what the government of Canada was, under the proclamation which you wish to perpetuate,---it comprehended East Florida, West Florida, and the Granades, together with Canada, countries as different in their establishments as in their soil, and in their climate; various therefore were the instructions given to their several governors, and afterwards changed according as information and experience pointed out new systems. In Canada the French laws alone prevailed till 1764, then the English laws got some footing. The governors and officers of justice *always* doubtful which to take for their guide, sometimes preferring the English, sometimes the French laws, as each seemed applicable to the case before them---One year a proclamation, another year an instruction to a governor, another year a local ordinance, changed the principal, and varied the course of their justiciary proceedings.--In this state of fluctuation, no man knew by what right he could take, or give, inherit, or convey, possess, or enjoy property; or by what mode or rule he could bring