

The best illustration of Carleton's character may be gathered from his reply to the king's request for a report from him upon the best system of laws for the colony. Having in view the ignoble discomfiture of his predecessor and his wreck upon a somewhat similar rock, he sailed around it, by an artful report, the concluding clause of which reads ; —“That they (Governor and Council) cannot draw a balance in favor of any one of these methods in preference of the other, nor find a new one preferable to them all, being unequal to the task. We have no other merit than that of giving some information of facts. Your Majesty is best able to decide.”

In 1773, Sir Guy visited England and while there he was faced with two petitions to the king, one from the British residents in Canada stating that they numbered over 3,000 and asking that the king instruct the Governor to convene the House of Assembly expressly granted to them by the terms of the royal proclamation of 1763 and for which they had waited ten long years, representing that the situation and circumstances of the province required the same. In the memorial accompanying it, it was intimated that ordinances repugnant to British laws were constantly being passed, and the petitioners recommended that an assembly subject to the king's pleasure (thus not objecting to Catholic representation if he saw fit to have it) should be convened.

The other was from the French noblesse, advocates, and others, expressly adverse to any House of Assembly being convened, but asking for an enlarged executive council to assist the Governor in which they were to have full representation. * Also for the repeal of that part of the proclamation of 1763 in which the English laws were made absolute and further asking for the restoration of their laws, privileges and customs, and the extension of the boundaries of the province to its former (French) limits. They also asked to be allowed to hold office under the Crown and entreated

* Hitherto they had been excluded owing to their religion.