

6-7 EDWARD VII., A. 1907

to assist us in the settlement of family and other matters, a Lower Court of Justice was to be established where all cases between Frenchman and Frenchman could be decided. We have seen that by another ordinance, to avoid lawsuits, cases decided by this court should be without appeal, unless they were of the value of three Hundred *Livres*.

In proportion to the greatness of our Joy on seeing these wise regulations, was the distress with which we discovered that fifteen English Jurors as opposed to seven Jurors from the new Subjects had induced the latter to subscribe to Remonstrances in a language which they did not understand against these same Regulations. This is proved by their Remonstrances and Signatures of the evening before, in a Petition in which they urgently beg the Governor and his Council that their Judge may hold a sitting as their affairs were suffering for want of it.

With deep bitterness in our hearts we have seen, that after all the proofs of Your Majesty's Paternal Affection for your new Subjects, these same fifteen Jurors, with the assistance of the Lawyers have proscribed us as unfit, from differences of Religion, for any office in our country; even Surgeons and Apothecaries (whose professions are free in all countries) being among the number.

Who are those who wish to have us proscribed? About thirty English merchants, of whom fifteen at the most, are settled here. Who are the Proscribed? Ten thousand Heads of Families who feel nothing but submission to the orders of Your Majesty, and of those who represent you, who do not recognize as such this so-called Liberty with which the other party desire to incite them to opposition to all the Regulations which might be to their advantage, and who have enough intelligence to see that these persons are guided by their own Interest rather than the public good.

And in fact what would become of the general prosperity of the Colony, if those who form the principal section thereof, become incapable members of it through difference of Religion? How would Justice be administered if those who understand neither our Language nor our Customs should become our Judges, through the Medium of Interpreters. What confusion, what Expenditure of Money would not result therefrom? Instead of the favoured Subjects of Your Majesty, we should become veritable Slaves; a Score of Persons whom we do not know would become the Masters of our Property and of our Interests; We should have no further Redress from those equitable Men, to whom we have been accustomed to apply for the settlement of our Family Affairs, and who if they abandoned us, would cause us to prefer the most barren country to the fertile land we now possess.

It is not that we are not ready to submit with the most respectful obedience to all the Regulations which may be made for the Wellbeing and Prosperity of the Colony, but the favour which we ask is that we may be allowed to understand them. Our Governor and his Council have