

he is from his connections with government, and his own reading, must know much concerning the actual state of the province of Quebec; I desire he will answer what sort of government he would give to it?

A. The giving laws to mankind is the perfection of all knowledge, human and divine. It is not the work of days, of months, of years, but of ages. For me to answer that gentleman's question, what sort of government I would give to the province, I must be the vainest of men.

Q. From such papers and informations as have been laid before the gentlemen for his consideration, I desire to know in general what is his idea of a Civil Establishment for the province of Quebec, the properest to be given it by the Legislature of this country?

A. It depends upon a most extensive knowledge, infinite indeed, of the relations of men and things, times and circumstances; the positions of both countries; the manners and genius of the people; the wants of the province; the views of the Mother Country; the conduct of the neighbouring Colonies; the state of the nation *vis-à-vis*, or respecting them and the designs of the rest of Europe. These relations change every moment; this vast political prospect is for ever doubtful and floating; it contains too many objects for my short vision and poor comprehension.—My answer therefore to the question. (What is the properest establishment for the province of Quebec, to be given by the Legislature of this country) is, I cannot tell.

Mr. W. Burke. There is an absurdity in this answer. The gentleman spoke of an infinite knowledge of men and things, times and circumstances, and yet he says, he cannot

House—Read the Minutes.

The Clerk read the Minutes—as Mr. Burke had represented them.

Advocate General. They were not my words—It depends upon a most extensive knowledge, &c. &c. that is, the question depends—The words 'it depends' were left out.—Repeats as above.

Mr. Baker. I would ask the gentleman at the Bar if ever he has read any thing of the laws of France? I believe he has read a great deal.

A. I have read a little of the French law.

Q. Does he understand it?

A. Not the stile of it, nor its forms very well.

Q. What does he mean by the stile of it?

A. There is in every civilized country, in which a system of civil laws is established, a law-language—as there are in every art and science words and phrases peculiar to them, only understood by the persons who practise those arts and sciences; I correct myself: not always understood perfectly even by them, for they frequently dispute about the force and meaning. The law therefore calls these arts, crafts and mysteries. The French have a serious word for the stile of law; they call it *jargon*: we ludicrously use it *jar-gon*. It is a cant word.

Q. Did he ever see any system of the French law in Canada?

A. I have read a collection of French laws, which contains, by way of abstract, the laws and usages of that province, founded on the Laws of Prevôté of Paris; and it also contains several ordinances of police and arrears of the French King.

Q. Does he understand them?