

permitted to prevail during so many Years in a British Province. It furnishes, however, the clearest Proof that can possibly be offered or required, that the Official Information from that unfortunate Province has not been such as the British Government had a right to expect; for if Parliament had been duly informed that the Quebec Acts, by which it was certainly intended to secure the Peace, and to Promote the Prosperity and Happiness of the People of that Province, had produced the very contrary Effects; that, from the Uncertainty of the Laws supposed to be introduced by that Act, His Majesty's Subjects had been obliged to depend for Justice on the vague and uncertain Ideas of the Judges; —we are sure, from the Generosity and Justice of the British Government, that we should have had no Difficulty in procuring the necessary Relief.

In this Stage of the Business I shall not waste the Time of this Honourable House to explain the nature of the Civil Government of that Province while it belonged to France; nor to prove to this Honourable House, that although the Quebec Act has been in full Force Sixteen Years, the Courts in that Province have not yet settled or agreed on whether the Whole of the French Laws, or what Part of them, composed the Custom of Canada; as they sometimes admitted, and at other times rejected, whole Codes of the French Law. It is not necessary to enlarge on these Subjects, as the Bill now under consideration supposes that the present Constitution of the Province is defective; and I hope this Bill before it receives the Sanction of this Honourable House, will be so modified and arranged as to preclude the necessity of our troubling the British Legislature again, to reform the Constitution or Government of that Country.

While that Province belonged to France the Country was thinly inhabited; Agriculture and Commerce were neglected, despised, and discouraged; Credit and Circulation were very confined; and Mercantile Transactions were neither numerous, extensive, nor intricate, for the India Company had been permitted to retain the monopoly of the Fur