

## SESSIONAL PAPER No. 18

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(*Translation.*)

TO THE KING

Most Gracious Sovereign

May it please your Majesty

Your most humble and most obedient subjects, The Canadians of your Province of Quebec dare to address themselves to Your Majesty with the deepest respect and with that firm confidence which is inspired in them by your paternal goodness for all your faithful Subjects in general, and by the Favours with which up to the present time Your Majesty has laden his new Canadian Subjects, who will ever preserve the memory of them and the deepest gratitude for them.

From the Moment, Sire, of the union of this Province to the Dominion of your Crown, your most humble servants have taken the Liberty of frequently representing to you, of what importance to their interests it was to be judged and governed according to the Laws Customs and regulations under which they were born, which serve as the Basis and Foundation of their possessions, and are the rule of their families, and how painful and at the same time how humiliating it has been to them to be excluded from the offices which they might fill in this Province, for the Service of Your Majesty, and the Comfort of Your Canadian People,—the only way to excite emulation.

Without wearying Your Majesty with details of the ills which the deprivation of their advantages have occasioned them, concerning which Your Majesty has been informed by previous representations, on the part of your faithful Canadian subjects, they will be content with simply telling you that from the different mode of procedure both as regards form and essence in civil affairs, and from the exorbitant rate of the fees exacted by the Lawyers there has ensued the Ruin of a considerable number of families. Your Canadian people, Sire, who are already overwhelmed by so many other calamities, had no need of this increase of misfortune.

Could the religion we profess, Sire, and in the profession of which it had pleased you to assure us that we shall never be disturbed, though differing from that of your other subjects, be a reason, (at least in Your Province of Quebec) for excluding