

would permit, until such time as proper ordinances for the information of the people could be established by the Governor and Council, agreeable to the laws of England; with this just and prudent proviso, "that the French laws and customs should be allowed and admitted in all causes in the said court between the natives of the said province, in which the cause of action arose before the first day of October, one thousand seven hundred and sixty-four."

CHAP.
I.

IN consequence of these instruments of Government, all purporting to introduce the laws of England into the province of Quebec, those laws were generally understood to have been introduced into it, and consequently to be the rule and measure of all contracts and other civil engagements entered into by the inhabitants after the introduction of them, that is, after the establishment of the civil government of the province, or after the said first day of October, one thousand seven hundred and sixty-four. Thus were the laws of England supposed to have been introduced, until the revival of the French laws in matters of property and civil rights by the Quebec Act passed some years afterwards.

As General James Murray had been appointed Governor* of the province, and had been empowered by a Royal Instruction to nominate a Council of eight members of his choice, with power to make laws and ordinances; he was sworn in as Governor this year, and the Council nominated by him, were :

William Gregory †—Chief Justice,
Paulus Emilius Irving,

* 21st November, Council Books.

† Recalled on the representation of General Murray.