

AT A MEETING
OF
THE MEMBERS OF THE BAR OF THIS CITY,

HELD AT THE COURT-HOUSE ON THE 16th INSTANT,

J. D. LACROIX, ESQ. BEING CALLED TO THE CHAIR, AND
J. G. BARTHE, ESQ. ACTING SECRETARY.

THE COMMITTEE
OF
THE MONTREAL BAR,

ON
THE PROJECT OF THE JUDICATURE ORDINANCE,

TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE

SPECIAL COUNCIL,
PRESENTED THE FOLLOWING REPORT,

WHICH WAS READ

IN ENGLISH BY W. WALKER, ESQ. CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE,
AND IN FRENCH BY C. MONDELET, ESQ.

*The Committee appointed by a Resolution of the Bar
of the 11th instant, have the honour to report as
follows:—*

THE project of Law which the Committee have been called upon to examine, deserves a very general and anxious attention. It assumes the provisions of law under which the existing Courts of Judicature have been established, to be altogether insufficient and inadequate for the due administration of justice. It affects the Judicial system of the Province in all its higher departments. It abrogates the existing Courts of King's Bench for the Districts of Quebec, Montreal, Three-Rivers, and St. Francis, the Court for the Inferior District of Gaspé, and the Provincial Court of Appeals. It abolishes the existing division of the Province into Districts; the various Courts of King's Bench throughout the Province, are to be superseded by a Court of Common Pleas, sitting by divisions in the Districts to be erected by the Bill; and the Provincial Court of Appeals is to be replaced by a Supreme Court of Record, to be called the Court of Queen's Bench, possessing all the powers of the present Court of Appeals, the high and transcendent authority of the Court of Queen's Bench in England, and having original and exclusive criminal jurisdiction throughout the Province. It is only, within the last few days that the details of a project involving changes and alterations so important, and remodelling the constitution of the higher tribunals throughout the Province, have been accessible to the members of the Profession. That there are many and serious deficiencies in the existing system, your Committee will not undertake to deny; but they most respectfully conceive that any expedient intended to supply such deficiencies, should have been preceded by many formalities and enquiries; that the evils and their causes should have been investigated and reported upon, and that the remedy ought to have been one suggested by the opinions of able men in various departments, including the Judges of the different Courts and the Professors of the Law.