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DEBATES ON THE QUEBEC BILL.

House of Commons, June 3, 1774.

SIR JAMES MARRIOTT, Advocate General called in.

Mr. Mackworth. I desire to know of the gentleman at the Bar, what would be the best establishment of laws in the province of Quebec, in his opinion.

A. It is difficult to say upon any subject, in this world, what is best for any men or set of men of speculation: that which succeeds best in public and private life is best; and therefore I cannot tell what will be best for the Canadians.

Q. Does he think that the Canadians would chuse the system of English law, or the French law?

A. I do not know a single Canadian. I never was in Canada.

Q. Does the Gentleman think that the commerce of this country, and the province, would be hurt by a revival of the French laws in cases of property?

A. I cannot tell.

Q. Does he know any thing of the state of Canada?

A. What I know is from such papers as have been laid before me, by order of the King in Council, and by information of other persons.

Capt. Phipps. I desire to ask if he understands the French law?

A. I find it very difficult to understand any law.

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Q. Does he know the power of the French King, under the constitution of the French laws?

A. I do not well understand the constitution of France. I never was in France. It is a very hard thing for a foreigner to obtain an adequate idea of the constitution of another country: The constitution of one's own requires a great deal of close application and study: I wish I understood it better; and that many other people would study it more, and understand it better than I fear they do.

Q. Does he understand the constitution of Ireland?

A. No: I never was in Ireland.

Mr. Dempster. Does he think it expedient to give the province of Quebec any part of the French constitution?

A. The question is upon the word expedient.

Q. I mean, will it be wise and prudent?

A. By the words expedient, wise, and prudent. I understand the question to mean, whether it will be politically wise and prudent. Expediency is Ministerial language. It is a word of state: state expediency.—It means that high policy, that great arcanum, the sublime of government, extended almost beyond the reach of human wisdom: Few that can pry into this sort of knowledge. Fewer that can comprehend it. I am sure I do not.

Q. The gentleman, by the nature of his office, and greatly informed as