

The Bill before this Honourable House this Evening, and the Petitions now on the Table, are the best Proofs I can offer that the Petitions on which it was thought expedient to pass the Quebec Act did not afford such full Information on the Subject as to justify the Principles of that Act. The Confusion which has ensued in consequence of that Act is greater than it is possible for me to express to this Honourable House. It is evident that a System of Law was adopted entirely on a supposed Idea; for so late as the month of June last, in the High Court in this Kingdom, to which our last Appeal at present lies, in a Cause Appealed from the Province, in which an Honourable Member of this House is interested, the Court ordered the Lawyers of the Parties, who were of the highest rank of their Profession in this Country, to agree on and draw up a state of the Case, and to send it to Paris for the Opinion of French Lawyers, to ascertain the Laws in Force, and which composed the System of Canada, previous to the Conquest. If the System enacted by the Quebec Act had been properly understood, I cannot suppose the Court would have found it necessary to order such a Reference; and so that after Sixteen Years Experience and Investigation by the Courts and Lawyers, we are now waiting for the Opinions of Parisian Lawyers to know what was intended by the Quebec Act: But such must ever be the consequences of Political Plans and Schemes when adopted without proper Information and full Investigation, particularly if they are intended to Operate on Countries situate so far distant, that that the probable Effects and Consequences can scarcely be sufficiently known to the Members of the British Legislature; it therefore requires great Care and Circumspection in framing any Act which is to Operate on the Extremities of the Empire; every kind of Information ought to be courted from all Quarters and from all Parties; Objections ought to be received and heard coolly and dispassionately; for though much of the Information, and many of the Objections may not be pertinent to the Subject, it is reasonable to expect that such Conduct would procure Light

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