

thus administered until the year 1774, when the Statute 14th Geo. III. was passed. The inhabitants at that time amounted to about 90,000, the principal part of whom were of French extraction. The objects of that law appear to have been to provide a Council for all the affairs of the Province, except taxation, in which Council the French Canadians were eligible to a seat: *to establish the French Laws*, and trial according thereto in civil cases,—and the English Laws, with Trial by Jury, in criminal: to secure to the Roman Catholic Clergy, (with certain exceptions,) their estates, as well as tythes from those of their own persuasion. A most cursory examination of the details of this Act, cannot fail to lead to the conclusion that it was passed with an earnest desire to give to the French Canadians the free enjoyment of those laws to which they had been accustomed; to secure to them the full exercise of their religion, as it had existed prior to the Conquest; and to extend to them the right of being Members of the Council, appointed to advise the Governor in the conduct of their local affairs. It was an Act, in short, full of benefits and privileges for those newly acquired subjects of the Crown; and it was complained against, at the time of its passing, as depriving those persons of British origin who had, or might thereafter become inhabitants of Canada, of the (to them) highly valued privilege of Trial by Jury in all cases, civil or criminal. Between this period and the passing of the Act of 1791, a change gradually took place in the population of the Province of Quebec—British capitalists became engaged in its commerce: British emigrants began to settle on its uncultivated lands: while numbers of those, whose unconquerable loyalty had kept them faithful to the British Crown during all the vicissitudes of the American Revolutionary War, were induced to emigrate to that Province as a refuge, where they might enjoy that Government and those rights which they had sacrificed all to sustain. Each of these classes of persons was strongly attached, by

Government of the Province of Quebec till 1774.

Number of inhabitants about 90,000.

Statute, 14th Geo. 3rd, passed.

Object of that Statute.

Passed with a view to give to the French Canadians,

the enjoyment of their laws—the free exercise of their religion, &c., and the right to seats in the Governor's Council.

Act complained of at the time, as being inimical to British feelings.

Between that period and 1791 British Emigrants began to arrive,

and Loyalists who had suffered during the American Revolution.