

CHAP.

I.

peace to the laws of Great Britain, as the measure of the indulgence intended to be shewn them with respect to the exercise of their religion, sufficient notice had been given to the conquered inhabitants of that province, that it was His Majesty's pleasure, that they should be governed for the future, according to the laws of England; and that the inhabitants, after being thus apprised of His Majesty's intention, had consented to be so governed, and had testified their said consent, by continuing to reside in the country, and taking the oath of allegiance to His Majesty, when they might have withdrawn themselves from the province, with all their effects, and the produce of the sale of their estates, within the eighteen months allowed by His Majesty in the treaty of peace, for that purpose.

IN pursuance of this supposition that the laws of England had been introduced into the province, by the aforesaid proclamation and commission, Governor Murray and his Council, in the great ordinance dated on the seventeenth day of September, one thousand seven hundred and sixty-four, (passed at the commencement of the civil government of the province, for the establishment of courts of justice in it,) directed the Chief Justice of the province, (who was to hold the superior court, or *Court of King's Bench*, established by that ordinance,) *to determine all criminal and civil causes agreeable to the laws of England and the ordinances of the province*; and the judges of the inferior court, established by the said ordinance, (which was called the *court of common Pleas*,) *to determine the matters before them agreeable to equity, having regard nevertheless to the laws of England, as far as the circumstances and situation of things*