

Florida and Grenada, annexed to the British Empire by the Definitive Treaty of that year.

*"And whereas, it will greatly contribute to the speedy settling of our said new Governments, that our loving Subjects should be informed of our paternal care for the security of the liberties and properties of those who are or shall become inhabitants thereof, We have thought fit to publish and declare by this our Proclamation, that we have in our Letters Patent under our Great Seal of Great Britain, by which the said Governments are constituted, given express power and direction to our Governors of our said Colonies respectively, that so soon as the state and circumstances of the said Colonies will admit thereof, they shall, with the advice and consent of the Members of our Council, summon and call General Assemblies, within the said Governments respectively, in such manner and form as is used and directed in those Colonies and Provinces in America, which are under our immediate government: and we have also given power to the said Governors, with the consent of our said Council, and the Representatives of the People, so to be summoned as aforesaid, to make, constitute and ordain Laws, Statutes and Ordinances, for the public peace, welfare and good government of our said Colonies, and of the People and Inhabitants thereof, as near as may be agreeable to the Laws of England; and under such regulations and restrictions as are used in other Colonies. And in the mean time, and until such Assemblies can be called as aforesaid, all Persons inhabiting in or resorting to our said Colonies, may confide in our royal Protection for the enjoyment of the benefit of the Laws of our realm of England, &c. &c."*

No. 3.—It was a favorite project of Governor Carleton's, to carry an army of Canadians into the revolted Colonies; notwithstanding their whole population was hardly sufficient then to cultivate their cleared land; and tho' they could certainly have been much more usefully employed in raising provisions for the British troops. His opinion seems to have had considerable weight with the British Ministry; for they sent out at least 20,000 stand of arms for the express purpose of arming the Canadians for offensive operations; and in restoring the old Laws and Customs of Canada, by means of the Quebec Bill, they re-instated the Seigniors in their right to call upon the Habitans or Freeholders as their vassals, for military service. The latter however, after enjoying the Laws of England during eleven years were not now disposed to comply with such a requisition; and they expressed at once a firm resolution not to march beyond the limits of the Province.

It is very well understood that the common People of Canada expressed the greatest sorrow at the re-establishment of the French Laws and Customs; and that they trembled at the thought of the Noblesse being again re-instated in the magistracy.