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imperfect manner. But there is another and greater advantage with which, as we conceive, this measure would be attended, which is the removing from the minds of the Canadians all idea of the excellency of the French laws and government, and of the superiour skill and ability of French lawyers and judges, bred in the parliament of Paris, and consequently of the happiness of having their law-suits decided by them. For we apprehend that, as long as the French laws and customs subsist at large without being reduced into a code, so that the several French law-books, books of reports, and edicts of the French king are the books of authority upon the subject, to which recourse must be had continually in the decision of points of law, so long will the people of this province retain a reverence for those edicts, reports, and other law-books, and for the authority of the French king who made the edicts, and for the parliament of Paris that has made the decisions reported in the books of reports, and the other learned French authors who have composed the other treatises on this subject ; and this reverence will be accompanied with a continuance of their liking for that government from which these good laws and edicts and law-books proceeded, and under which they might be most ably administered, and consequently with a secret wish to return to that government, that is, to return to their subjection to the French king ; whereas, if they continue to enjoy the most important of their ancient laws and customs under a new name, and expressed in a stile and phrase somewhat different from the former, and carrying with it the stamp of your Majesty's authority, the idea of their former sovereign, and of the parliament of Paris, and of the wise lawyers that compose it, would by degrees wear out of their minds, and they would think of nothing upon these occasions but the king of Great Britain and his code, and the great favour he had shewn them in permitting their principal laws and customs to continue, and giving them the express sanction of his royal authority. This we take to be a very capital advantage attending this measure of compiling a code of laws.

As to the inconvenience that might arise from the omissions or imperfections of this code (for we readily admit that it would be very imperfect) it must be observed, that they might be continually lessened and remedied by fresh ordinances, from time to time re-enacting those parts of the former laws and customs of this province which appeared to have been forgotten in the code, and which the governour and council thought worthy to be re-established: and in the mean time the code itself (imperfect as we suppose it to be) would still be sufficiently exact to determine all the common cases that occur in the ordinary course of human