

carriages, their teams, and their labour without any pay, under an ill-grounded supposition that it was agreeable to Canadian law, and with a pretence of punishing them for having been lukewarm in the King's service on the Rebel invasion. The consequences were, that those who had misbehaved, or who had no principles of loyalty, disobeyed the summons, and hid themselves in the woods; those who had always been friends to Government, readily attended, were exceedingly harrassed, and then were laughed at by their ill-disposed neighbours, for their "penible loyauté;" they soon became disgusted with a government whose injustice they severely felt, the affections of the few faithful remaining among the Canadians were alienated, and their numbers rapidly diminishing, when another act of Government, about this time, completed the disgust with every man of reflection. By the Quebec Act, the Council for the affairs of the Province was to consist of not less than seventeen members; but by the King's instructions, any five were to be a sufficient number to act as a council of state. Though this be a general instruction, no American Governor had ever supposed it was the King's intentions to allow the packing of a Council; yet under pretence of these words, "any five," Sir Guy Carleton thought proper, by an order of the 8th August, 1776, to appoint, not *any five*, but a

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