

of the English laws into this province as they are represented in the foregoing report : at least he has seen no proofs of either such great distress or high discontent. What he has principally observed to be the subject of their complaints has been, either the expence, or the dilatoriness of our law-proceedings ; which he therefore conceives stand in need of reformation : and he is of opinion, that to establish three courts of general jurisdiction in all matters criminal as well as civil in the province, to sit every week in the year (with a very few exceptions) in the towns of Quebec, Three Rivers, and Montreal, would be the most adequate remedy for these complaints.

The expensiveness and dilatoriness of the English law proceedings are the principal subjects of the complaints of the Canadians.

To erect three royal courts of general jurisdiction to hold their sittings weekly.

And as to the substance of the laws which are to be henceforwards admitted in this province, he conceives that the best way of all to settle these would be to make a code of them, that should contain all the laws of every kind, criminal as well as civil, that were intended to be of force here, to the exclusion of all other laws, both French and English, that were not inserted in the said code ; by which means all pretence would be taken away both from the French and British inhabitants of this province for complaining that they are governed by unknown laws. This he conceives to be a work of difficulty indeed, but by no means impracticable ; and he apprehends that it would be a work of very great utility to the province, even though it should be very imperfectly executed, and many important articles should happen to be omitted in it ; provided only that those things that were inserted in it were useful and reasonable, and set forth in a clear and proper manner : because he apprehends that the rules so inserted would be sufficient to govern at least all the common cases that would happen in the ordinary course of human affairs, such as descents in the right line, the right of representation in grand-children whose parents are dead, the dower of widows, the rents and services due to seigniors, the obligations and duties due from them to their tenants, the seignior's right to the common mutation-fines, his right of pre-emption of his tenant's land when the tenant is disposed to sell it, the rules of evidence in courts of justice, the solemnities necessary to be observed to give validity to a deed or will, and the like obvious and important matters ; which would be sufficient to prevent the province from falling into confusion. And as to the nicer cases which might be omitted in such a code, they might afterwards be supplied by particular ordinances passed from time to time for that purpose.

To make a code of laws for the use of the province.

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