

Sir,

It is certainly an argument of a most ingenious Minde as well as
 Commonwealth, where a man's ways to advance his own interest
 lies together, which I doubt not but will be effectually done by your happy
 success in the printing and publishing the Laws of this Province, whereby the whole
 of them now in force will be to be had at so reasonable a rate that scarce any
 man willing but may have them, and as it is a noble principle for every man
 himself acquainted with the Laws of the Country he lives in, so it is very
 to be ignorant of them, by reason of that maxim that is of the Law
 execute, which though it may seem harsh maxim, yet other things
 beyond is most just and reasonable, encouraging them to attain the knowledge
 of the Laws under which they live, and that by the sweet springs of
 hope and fear, hope of knowledge and advantage, and the order and
 constitution of the government they live in, which is in the duty
 of the Country, and being punished for the breach of any of them, that through
 a willful ignorance, how much this maxim will appear more
 red wish us to be ignorant of the Law if we can, then the more ignorant
 the more we could be punished by the Law but them that know it,
 that knowledge is a dangerous thing, and yet it is the experience of all ages that
 the more knowledge people have (which is to be understood) they are the more
 their government and constitution, but this is but in general, this was the
 ing as I conceive is pregnant with many great benefits, and in a more particu-
 lar, taking this to be granted (which I have no doubt but is) that very few
 Gentlemen of this Province, and yet all the Justices of the Provincial and County
 Courts have yet had the benefit of the Laws to their use to read, meditate and digest
 them, without which it is impossible rightly to know them, for indeed they were not
 to be had but at a great charge and difficult to be got at any copy, and then but in a
 few hands.

First, supposing this, and now that the plain print and easy price will remove the for-
 mer difficulty it cannot I think be doubted but that all the Justices of the Provincial
 and County Courts will have them in their Studies for the reasons before said, and the
 better to enable them to give a right judgment of the Laws when pleaded before
 and next to them, all other Officers of what nature, great or small.

Secondly, as it will prevent many quarrels and contentions which
 what then is true themselves in by ignorance, for the Law will inform them what to do
 and what to avoid, and it will prevent coming into Court upon trifling
 Laws because their Neighbours will know the Law as well as they, and they will
 make Men more peaceable, better Neighbours, and easier to the Courts of Justice.

Thirdly, as it will prevent actions and injuries among private persons, and will
 instruct the several Officers of Courts their duty, which will prevent many mistakes
 of their Officers daily committed through ignorance, and which give great delay to the
 Courts, and the several Officers ready discharge of their duties will be a further
 to the business of the Court.

Fourthly, The Justices perfect knowledge of the Laws will be a great means to their
 sit are the trial of every such cause, and prevent the turning over links to find out the
 Law, when they shall know at first mentioning what the Law is and how it stands related
 to other Laws, and be able to direct the trial by their own knowledge, and rising up to
 the different Arguments of each Party which will be a happiness no less to themselves
 than the Suters.

Fifthly, The grand and petty Jurys also being acquainted and knowing the Laws
 will more readily and aptly discharge their several offices, more might be expected
 but of all the benefits, may if but some of them answer expectation it will be a con-
 siderable advantage to the Province.

You can not but expect some who will censure and be ready to condemn both the un-
 dertaking and the reasons for it, such (I mean) who know no other way to raise their
 own interest then by finding fault with and condemning other Mens actions, but it
 should not discourage any one from prosecuting a good right, which is good
 to be and pray for the success of a good cause.