

race of the Empire, is deserving of no predominance as a distinct source of political power.

At a meeting of gentlemen, impressed with the importance of ascertaining public opinion upon the general interests of the Province, at this momentous crisis in its history, it has been considered necessary only to invite your attention to the general reasons of the present movement; to assume no right of suggesting remedial measures; to arrogate no power of binding you by our opinions; but, leaving to yourselves the discussion of causes, and the adoption of means of relief, to shew merely the necessity of present action, and recommend what appear to us to be the best means of promoting regular enquiry, and obtaining ultimate redress.

Besides the commercial and industrial depression now weighing upon our community, evils of a social and political character exist among us to an extent unknown in any other portion of the British dominions.

Without descending to enumerate subjects which are confined to the narrow arena of party strife, it is sufficiently evident that our political system requires modification and improvement.

The diversity of national origin, in itself so potent an impediment to progress; its bearing and influence upon the general interests of the Colony, by the mere expedient of junction, apart from principle;—the system of representation; the tenure of lands in the Lower Province; the composition of the Legislative Council, and many other topics of far too great importance to be approached without caution, or touched without dispassionate enquiry by the people at large; all point to the necessity of concentrating and asserting Public Opinion upon such matters. And if these, and other weighty topics, partaking, as they do more or less, of a local character merely, were insufficient to arouse the public mind and awaken the public voice of Canada, there still remains one subject which is not limited in its influence to the local boundaries of the Province, which affects the honor of the British Crown, and the character of the British nation, and which, at this very hour, bows down the heads of the desponding, and cheers the narrow hearts of the disaffected, by the possibility of impending punishment for the duty of allegiance.

It is evident, from the known character of our race, that patient submission to any ascendancy founded on feelings of nationality alone, and not actuated by any generous or progressive principle, never has been, and never will be, for any length of time endured by Britons. It is equally apparent that whatever may be the energy or determination of the Anglo-Saxon race inhabiting this Colony, it has hitherto been diluted and weakened by the absence of all systematic combination, and by the wasteful expenditure, in unavailing individual efforts, of time and talents, which, if concentrated and applied in a proper manner, would be fitted to attain the noblest ends.

The means, therefore, which we would respectfully suggest of subjecting the grievances of the people to regular discussion and ultimate redress, are simple, natural, and obvious. They are the means by which, in other countries, all that is great, enduring, and admirable, has been attained; before which, evils, the most deep rooted, and abuses the most powerful, have invariably yielded; and without