

No. 5.

RESOLUTIONS.

No. 37.
The Rt. Hon. C. P.
Thomson to Ld. John
Russell.

6th December, 1839.

Enclosure.

1.—That this meeting sincerely rejoices at this opportunity of expressing its satisfaction at the appointment of the Right Hon. C. P. Thompson, as Governor-General of British North America, recognizing in that distinguished gentleman a statesman of no ordinary ability, and a firm friend of civil and religious liberty.

2.—That this meeting, having witnessed with astonishment and regret the unconstitutional refusal of Mr. Sheriff Jarvis to call a public meeting of the inhabitants of the district, in compliance with a requisition signed by upwards of 200 individuals, feels itself imperatively called on to assert the right of British subjects to meet peaceably and constitutionally to discuss the public affairs of the province, and to petition for the redress of grievances, if in their opinion any such exist; and to declare further that the people themselves are the sole judges of the expediency of such meeting, discussion, and petition.

3.—That any attempt to change the existing constitution conferred on the people of this province by the statute passed in the 31st year of the reign of His Majesty King George III., without the consent of the local legislature, would be, in the opinion of this meeting, a breach of the solemn pledge of security guaranteed to the people by the said constitution.

4.—That it is the opinion of this meeting that the present House of Assembly have not represented the opinions of the people, and that they do not possess the confidence of the country.

5.—That whether such want of confidence in the present House of Assembly be well founded or not, this meeting, holding that it, like all preceding assemblies of the province, was chosen by the people to uphold, and not to impair, the existing constitution, deem it an essential preliminary to any discussion in the representative chamber, relative to the abrogation of, or alteration in, the constitution, that the present Provincial Parliament be dissolved, and an appeal made to the people for their opinion with reference to the proposed changes.

6.—That in the event of a dissolution of Parliament taking place, this meeting is desirous of recording its opinion, that if, to use the words of the Earl of Durham, "the crown, by its representative, shall make itself a party in the electioneering contest," it will be impossible for the Imperial Parliament to obtain a true expression of the opinions of the people.

7.—That this meeting has read with much satisfaction certain passages in a recent speech of the Most Noble the Marquis of Normanby, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, in which his Lordship admits "that no form of popular government for a colony could be properly conducted unless there existed a desire on the part of the superintending authority that the Executive Government of the colony should as much as possible act in harmony with the representative body," while it deeply regrets that his Lordship should have expressed any doubts as to the practical applicability of this principle to the working of the provincial constitution.

8.—That the report presented to Her Majesty by the Right Hon. the Earl of Durham, Her Majesty's late High Commissioner, to inquire into the affairs of British North America, presents the only sound and safe system of colonial government—namely, to follow out consistently the principles of the British Constitution, and introduce into the government of these great colonies those wise provisions, by which alone the working of the representative system can in any country be rendered harmonious and efficient.

9.—That this meeting, with a view of expressing its opinion as unequivocally as possible upon the subject of a responsible government, is anxious to be understood as desiring such a change in the present administration of the government as would render the advisers of the Colonial Governor responsible to the Parliament of the colony in matters affecting its local interests, in like manner in every respect as the advisers of the Imperial Government are responsible to the Parliament of Great Britain in matters affecting the interests of the empire.

10.—That this meeting cannot let this opportunity pass without expressing its regret that public despondency should still urge many of the inhabitants to emigrate from the province,—a despondency which has no foundation, inasmuch as this meeting feels fully satisfied that so universal a union of sentiment as at present pervades the people relative to the necessity and efficacy of a responsible government, will not be longer opposed by Her Majesty's Ministers.

11.—That this meeting cannot separate without expressing its grateful thanks to the Earl of Durham for his deep attention to the welfare of the American colonies, and without declaring its hope that his Lordship will continue to exert himself in his place in Parliament, and by every other constitutional means, in their behalf.

12.—That an address, founded on these resolutions, be presented to her most gracious Majesty the Queen, and that it be transmitted to the Right Hon. the Earl of Durham, to be by him laid at the foot of the throne, at such time as Her Majesty may be graciously pleased to receive it; and that copies of the said address, together with the resolutions passed at this meeting, be also transmitted to his Excellency the Right Hon. C. P. Thomson, Governor-General of British North America, and to his Excellency Sir G. Arthur, Lieut.-Governor of this province.

13.—That the following gentlemen, with power to add to their number, be appointed a