

unknown to the British Constitution. The power which he requires is, that of preserving you from your own elected representatives, and from Councils in which they have confidence; in other words, to preserve you from your own evil designs upon yourselves.

We ask you whether you admit such designs, whether you acknowledge such danger, and whether your apprehensions on these points are so strong that because of them you are induced to forego and surrender the British Constitution?

The Governor General asserts, that the constitution of Canada is the same as that of England, so far as the same can be administered in a colony. We understand the difference to consist in our want of power to interfere in matters affecting the empire at large, questions of peace and war, or external trade and commerce. The difference as asserted by the Governor General goes further. In a colony there must be a power unknown to the British Constitution, and constitutional advisers who may be consulted or not, at the Governor's pleasure.

The Governor General has been pleased to allude, on many occasions, to the want of an aristocracy in this colony, and to put this want forward as a reason why you should not be entrusted with the full enjoyment of the British Constitution. Of the soundness of his reasoning you will be the judges.

We shall not attempt, on this occasion, to establish or to controvert the benefits of an aristocracy in Church and State. If you want it, an aristocracy may be set up in reality as well as in name. You have only to consent to a Church Establishment, and to become tenants to noble families, instead of being proprietors yourselves. Do this, and you will forthwith have an aristocracy. We admit, you have not one at present, but we ask you, is it therefore you should be deprived of the rights and liberties of British subjects.

In England there is a House of Lords, spiritual and temporal, which, notwithstanding its forming a branch of the Legislature, and notwithstanding the great wealth and influence of its members, is rarely found to disagree with the popular House of Parliament, and which is never found to attempt the upholding an administration which has not the confidence of the House of Commons.

We ask you whether there is a necessity in this colony for a Legislative Council to exercise a greater degree of control or interference than is known to be exercised by the House of Lords in England. Is it because the Legislative Council have less influence, that they should exercise more power. Is there any constitutional principle applicable to colonies, which requires the exercise of power in an inverse proportion to natural political influence.

In England, peers of the realm are created by the Sovereign, with the advice of ministers, to whom the confidence of the Commons of England is essentially necessary.

We ask you, is there any thing in the constitution of Canada,