

your guidance in the administration of the government of Upper Canada, I think it right to refer you to those sources of information on which you will be able most safely to rely. Amongst these, the first place is due to the journals of the Legislative Council, and of the House of General Assembly. The appendices subjoined to the annual summary of the proceedings of the two Houses, contain a fund of information on almost every topic connected with the statistics and political interests of the province; and to those reports you will be able to resort with far greater confidence than to any other source of similar intelligence. The Report of the Committee of the House of Commons of the year 1828, with the evidence, oral and documentary, to which it refers, will also throw much light on the progress and the actual state of the questions agitated in the upper province. The correspondence of my predecessors and myself, with the officers who have successively administered the provincial government, will of course engage your careful attention.

No. 5.
Despatch from
Lord Glenelg to
Sir F. B. Head,
5 December 1835.

In Upper Canada, as in all countries which enjoy the blessing of a free constitution, and of a legislature composed in part of the representatives of the people, the discussion of public grievances, whether real or supposed, has always been conducted with an earnestness and freedom of inquiry of which, even when occasionally carried to exaggeration, no reasonable complaint can be made. The representatives of the Canadian people, if departing at times from the measured style and exact terms in which the investigation of truth may perhaps be most successfully conducted, have yet, even in the agitation of questions the most deeply affecting the interests of their constituents, exhibited a studious respect for the person and authority of their Sovereign, and a zealous attachment to the principles of their balanced constitution. Until the last session of the provincial parliament, the remonstrances of the House were chiefly confined to insulated topics of complaint: discussions, indeed, occasionally arose, and discontent was occasionally manifested; but it may be affirmed, that generally there subsisted a spirit of amicable co-operation between the executive government and the legislature.

The session by His Majesty of the revenues raised under the statute 14 Geo. 3, c. 88, to the appropriation of the House of Assembly, was a gratuitous and unso- licited act, and was accepted by that body in a spirit of grateful cordiality.

I will not pause to recapitulate the events which immediately preceded, if they did not produce the interruption of this mutual good understanding. It is sufficient for my present object to observe, that the relations which had formerly subsisted between the executive government and the representatives of the people underwent an entire change immediately after the elections which took place in the autumn of 1834. The supporters of the local government now for the first time found themselves in a constant minority on every question controverted between them and their political antagonists. A committee of grievances was appointed, by which a report was made impugning the administration of affairs in every department of the public service, and calling for remedial measures of such magnitude and variety as apparently to embrace every conceivable topic of complaint. Having adopted this report, and having directed its publication in an unusual form, the House transmitted through the lieutenant-governor, to the King, an address, in which some of the more considerable of the claims of the committee were urged in terms of no common emphasis. It will be your first duty on the assumption of the government to convey to the House the answer which His Majesty has been advised to return to these representations.

I cannot proceed to explain the terms of that answer without the preliminary remark with a view to which the preceding statement has been chiefly made. Whatever may be the justice of the complaints now preferred respecting the general principles on which the public affairs of the province have been conducted, the representatives of the people of Upper Canada are at least not entitled to impute to the confidential advisers of the King any disregard of their remonstrances. The greater part of the grievances detailed by the committee and the House are now for the first time brought by them under His Majesty's notice. My predecessor, the Earl of Ripon, in his despatch of the 8th of November 1832, to Sir John Colborne, was commanded by the King to state, that "there was no class of the Canadian people, nor any individual amongst them, to whose petitions His Majesty did not require that the most exact and respectful attention should be given." His Majesty has never ceased to be actuated by the spirit which dictated those instructions, and of course will not deny to the House of General Assembly that