

6-7 EDWARD VII., A. 1907

power in the hands of the same person¹ Convince us that the Ministry mean to oppose any Steps we should take.

We explained to you in our Letter of last Spring the nature of the Counter Petition²—And we Cannot yet persuade ourselves that the Minister will produce it. The promoters of it in this Country conducted it in such a private manner— that we never could find out who signed it. If it is produced we will thank you for a Copy of the Names that are at it, having reason to suppose that undue means were used to procure Signatures—

We inclose you Letter from the Committees of Montreal they have so clearly expressed our Ideas that we have very little further to say on the subject—

As the Committee of this place we return you our thanks for the trouble you have already taken in the Affair—And hope you will pursue it with that Steadiness which the importance of the fate of a whole Province where your own Interests are so deeply engaged demands.

It is likely the Constitution of the Province will be absolutely fixed in the Course of this Winter—every exertion therefore on your part will be necessary to procure for us that freedom we so earnestly desire, which is the birth-right of every British Subject and which is so essential to the welfare and prosperity of the Country. The people here look up to you for Support and they hope you will be able to procure the Aid and Assistance of the City of London and of the other great Commercial Towns of the Kingdom to preserve this province, now the most valuable on the Continent of America belonging to the British Empire, from being kept in ignominious Slavery

We request you will introduce our Petitions at the opening of this Sessions into the two Houses of Parliament and instruct those Members that Carry it up to insist positively on the prayer of the Petition for a House of Assembly We wish the Sense of the House may be taken on that point having great Confidence on the Patriotism and Public Spirit of the British Senate—Many of its Members have already stood forth in our favour and demanded the Repeal of the Quebec Bill.

We think it will be necessary to support our petitions by the Examination of such Gentlemen from this Country as are in London at the Bar of the Two Houses of Parliament

We flatter ourselves our late Worthy Lieut. Governor Hamilton will give a just report of our Conduct in the Affair and that so far from Stirring up Sedition and disturbance in the Province as has been insinuated³ We

¹ See note 1, p. 802.

² See p. 754.

³ As in Hope to Haldimand, Q 24-2, p. 386; and Haldimand to Sydney, see note 3, p. 795.