

which we are placed, and after full and calm deliberation, that since the time when we were last called to meet in Provincial Parliament, we have seen in the conduct and proceedings of the Metropolitan Government, and of the Colonial Administration towards this country, nothing which could re-establish in the people the confidence and affection which the long and fatal experience of the past has almost destroyed; but that, on the contrary, every recent event has tended to efface what remained of these feelings, and to consolidate, in opposition to the liberties, interests and wishes of the people, the Colonial Oligarchy factiously combined against them, and the hitherto unbridled and uncontrolled sway of the Colonial Ministers in Downing Street.

The avowal which it has pleased your Excellency to make to us, that the disposition of the authorities and of Parliament with regard to us, and the oppressive and unconstitutional measures which have been the result, are the consequences of the recommendations made by certain pretended authorities known by the name of the Royal Commissioners, has convinced us of the correctness of the opinions we have hitherto expressed with regard to this Commission which, constituted and acting under no law, and without regard to law, and bound beforehand by its instructions to the partial views and narrow policy of the British Ministry in the government of the colonies, could not possibly co-operate in doing justice to the inhabitants of this Province, and in establishing their institutions, their liberties and their prospects for the future, on the solid basis of their wishes and their wants, as well as on the principles of the constitution. We were therefore in nowise astonished at discovering in the productions of this pretended commission nothing but preconceived opinions, prejudices at variance with its mission and its duty, ideas of government founded on data utterly foreign to the country, or at finding it fomenting divisions and national distinctions, forgetful of constitutional principles, calumniating the provincial representation, and practising deception towards this House and towards the people. We are bound especially to notice in the reports in question one essential and paramount contradiction which pervades every part of them, and forms their essence. It is, that, while they admit the reality of the greater portion of the abuses and grievances of which we have complained, the Commissioners do not recommend their removal and the destruction of the causes which have produced them, but an act of aggression against this House which has denounced them, and the absolute destruction of the representative government in the Province, by the illegal and violent spoliation of the public moneys of the people, by the Ministers or by the Parliament; whereas it was the duty of the Commission and of the Mother Country to assist this House in the entire removal of these evils, and in rendering their recurrence impossible, by constituting the second branch of the Legislature by means of the elective principle,—by repealing all laws and privileges unjustly obtained, and by ensuring the exercise of the powers and legitimate control of this House over the internal affairs of the Province, and over all matters relative to its territory and the wants of its inhabitants, and more especially over the public revenue raised therein.

These remarks will render unnecessary a portion of those which we might have been led to make on the series of resolutions spoken of by your Excellency, and which being proposed by Lord John Russell, one of the Ministers of the Crown, were adopted by the two Houses of the Parliament of the United Kingdom.<sup>1</sup> We perceive in this measure on the one hand, a formal and total refusal of the reforms and improvements demanded by this House, and by the people, and on the other, an abuse of the powers of Parliament, for the purpose of destroying the laws and constitution of this Province by force, violating with regard to us the most sacred and solemn engagements, and of thereby establishing irremediably on the ruins of our liberties, and in place of the legitimate, efficient and constitutional control which this House, and the people through it, have a right to exercise over all the branches of the Executive Government, corruption and intrigue, the pillage of the revenue, and the self-appropriation of the best resources of the country by the colonial functionaries and their dependents, the domination and ascendancy of the few, and the oppression and servitude of the mass of the inhabitants of this Province, without distinction of class or of origin.

It is our duty, therefore, to tell the Mother Country, that if she carries the spirit of these resolutions into effect in the Government of British America, and of this Province in particular, her supremacy therein will no longer depend upon the

<sup>1</sup> See No. XCIII.