

*Henry Craig*, as Governor General, and leading to the unprecedented mode of hostility adopted by the American Government, under *President Jefferson*, which, by the prolonged Embargo on American Vessels, produced a contraband Trade from the Frontiers of the United States, through Lower Canada, pouring Wealth, Capital and Commercial Enterprise, into that Province, for two shipping seasons, and affording a stimulus to improvement, which a competent and impartial House of Assembly, would have made a lasting benefit to the Country and to their Constituents, as well as to the Subjects of British origin.

The fourth Session of the fourth Provincial Parliament, was opened by *Sir James Henry Craig*, Governor General, on the 29th of January, and ended on the 4th of April 1808; and, as the inefficient Administration of *President Dunn*, had left much business in arrear, the urgency for despatch was proportionably increased. Owing to the American Embargo, and the influx of Commerce, the establishment of a Bank was a favourite project, as the means of obviating the inconvenience of a continual drain of specie in payment of American Produce: the regulation of the increasing Lumber Trade, was also an important object; but, as the primary design of our essay is the developement of the ambition of the Leaders of the House of Assembly, we chiefly recapitulate what has a bearing on that subject.

Our political hypothesis, resting chiefly upon the effects of an injudicious Constitution, which has tempted the French Canadian Majority to aspire to exclusive domination, will receive much support and illustration from the conduct of the House of Assembly, this Session. At an early period, a resolve was carried by a Majority of 21 to 5, "*that Ezekiel Hart, Esquire, professing the Jewish Religion, cannot vote nor take a seat in this House.*" This expulsion was equally contrary to the Constitution, and to an Act of the British Parliament, which, in the Reign of *Geo. II.*, had conferred all the rights of British Subjects upon all Jews, who might have resided seven years in any Colony belonging to Great Britain.

The next unconstitutional Measure, was the Bill introduced by *Mr. Bourdages*, for disabling Judges from sitting and voting in the House of Assembly; which Bill was passed on the 4th of March, by a Majority of 17 to 8; and, as an inducement to the Legislative Council to concur in the Measure, its wily partizans alleged that the Judges would be more useful to the Country and to His Majesty's Service, by being called to sit and vote in the Upper House; *from which, succeeding Assemblies have, during many Sessions, endeavoured to expel them likewise.* The Legislative Council, however, perceiving nothing in the Constitution to warrant this Bill, rejected it, leaving to the judgment of the Electors, to choose Representatives possessing their confidence, from all classes not proscribed by the Letter of the Constitution, *which could only be altered by the Imperial Parliament, or by the joint concurrence of the three branches of the Provincial Legislature.*