

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 18

Certain it is however, that shortly after the said Congress had published in all the American Papers their approbation of the Suffolk County Resolves¹ in the Massachusetts, a Report was spread at Montreal, that Letters of Importance had been received from the General Congress, all the British there flocked to the Coffee House to hear the News, Grievances were publicly talked of, and various Ways for obtaining Redress proposed, but that Government might not come to a true Knowledge of their Intentions, a Meeting was appointed at the House of a Person then absent, followed by several others at the same Place, and a Committee of four Named, consisting of Mr. Walker, Mr. Todd, Mr. Price, and Mr. Blake, to take Care of their Interests, and prepare Plans for Redress.

Mr. Walker, whose Warmth of Temper brought on him, some Time before my Appointment to this Command, the very cruel and every Way unjustifiable Revenge,² which made so much Noise, now takes the Lead, and is not unmindful of his Friend Mr. Maseres upon the Occasion.

Their Plans being prepared, and a Subscription commenced, the Committee set out for Quebec, attended in Form by their Secretary, a Nephew of Mr. Walker's, and by Profession a Lawyer; immediately upon their Arrival here, their Emissaries having prepared the Way, an Anonimous Summons was posted up in the Coffee House for all the British Subjects to meet at a particular Tavern, and a Messenger sent round with a verbal Notice to such as might not have seen the written Summons; At this first Meeting a Committee of seven, consisting of Mr. John Paterson, since gone to London, Mr. Zachariah Macaulay, Mr. John Lees Senior, said to intend going Home this Fall, Mr. John Aitkin, their Treasurer, Mr. Randal Meredith, Mr. John Welles, and Mr. Peter Fargues, was appointed to prepare and adjust Matters with those of Montreal; several discreet People at this Place and Montreal declined attending those Meetings, as soon as they discovered what they aimed at.

There have been several Town Meetings since, as they are pleased to stile them, and Meetings of the joint Committees, at which, tis said, they have resolved to write Letters of Thanks to the Lord Mayor and Corporation of London,³ to some of the Merchants in the City, and to Mr. Maseres, for having taken the Province under their Protection, and praying a Continuance of their zealous Endeavours in so good a Cause; they intend a handsome Present in Cash to Mr. Maseres, with the Promise of a larger Sum, in Case he succeeds; Petitions are likewise to be presented to The King, to the Lords, and to the Commons,⁴ but of all this I speak doubtfully, as they have taken uncommon Pains to keep their whole Proceedings from my knowledge.

¹ These were adopted on Sept. 9th, 1774.

² The chief documents dealing with the Walker outrage are given in the "Report on Canadian Archives," for 1888, p. 1.

³ "On the 22nd of June, the Lord Mayor, attended by several aldermen, the recorder, and upwards of one hundred and fifty of the common council, went up with an address and petition to the King, supplicating his Majesty not to give his assent to the bill." Cavendish "Debates," &c. Preface, p. IV.

⁴ These petitions were presented and are given immediately following this despatch.