

give every facility and assistance in his power in obtaining for the people of this Colony the redress of any real grievances, provided that relief be sought by lawful and constitutional means, and be applied for in language such as befits His Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects to use in any Petition intended to be laid at the foot of the Throne, he feels it to be equally his duty, as it is his firm determination to assert and to maintain the supremacy of the Laws.

Government House, January 30th, 1837.

Colonial Secretary's Office, January 12, 1837.

Gentlemen,

I am commanded by His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, to acquaint you, that having observed in the *Royal Gazette* Newspaper of the 10th inst. a series of Resolutions, numbered from 1 to 4, inclusive, to which your names are attached, purporting to have been passed at a Public Meeting held at Hay River, in Kings County, on the 20th of December last, for the purpose of petitioning His Majesty for the redress of certain alleged grievances, the attention of His Excellency was particularly directed to the language in which the concluding part of the Third and the greater portion of the Fourth Resolutions are conceived, language which, in His Excellency's opinion, bears the import of a determination, on the part of the Meeting, to resist, by an illegal combination, the Law of the land, and which at the same time has a tendency to encourage similar combinations in other parts of the Island.

Whilst His Excellency cannot refrain from expressing his conviction, that the persons who composed the Meeting have incurred a heavy degree of responsibility, by adopting sentiments so directly opposed to good order and the well-being of society, which those parts of the Resolutions referred to manifestly imply, he is yet willing and anxious to hope from his own personal experience of the general character of the Inhabitants of this Colony, that they have been the result of inadvertence rather than of design; and His Excellency is therefore desirous to afford you, as the organs of the Meeting, (and, in such capacity, responsible for its acts,) an opportunity of offering an explanation of the meaning which those sentiments were intended to convey, before resorting to such ulterior measures as he may consider himself imperatively called upon to adopt, in order to vindicate and uphold the supremacy of the Laws, and to preserve in peace and social order the community over which His Majesty has been graciously pleased to appoint him to preside.

His Excellency has further commanded me to express to you his unfeigned desire, not only to preserve inviolate the undoubted right of all His Majesty's subjects within his Government to address the Throne, but also to afford every facility in his power to petitions when couched in respectful and constitutional language, which is at all times indispensably necessary to their favourable reception and successful result; and upon the present occasion, his Excellency is desirous to have it fully understood, that this communication is made, not from any wish or intention on his part to impede the petitioners in adopting such Constitutional measures, for the redress of their alleged grievances, as they may deem requisite

to afford them relief, but from an imperative sense of the duty which he owes to his most gracious Sovereign.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. H. HAVILAND,
Acting Col. Sec'y.

Messrs. W. Cooper,
J. Mackintosh,
J. W. Le Lacheur, }

Charlottetown, 24th January, 1837.

Sir,

I received from your Office, last Saturday night, a Circular, directed to me, Messrs. Le Lacheur and Mackintosh, as the organs of a Meeting which took place at Hay River on the 20th of December, requiring an explanation of the import and meaning of the words contained in the conclusion of the Third, and nearly the whole of the Fourth of a series of Resolutions which were agreed to at that Meeting, which words appeared to his Excellency to be a determination on the part of that Meeting to resist the Laws of the land. I therefore take the first opportunity to forward these, that you may give his Excellency the information required.

I believe there are very few disinterested men but will admit, that the Inhabitants, who have improved this Colony, have been unfairly dealt with; and I also firmly believe, that the British Government can have no other view than the happiness of all classes of His Majesty's subjects, and would willingly grant the change of condition desired by the Inhabitants, were it not for the great and opposite interests at stake. But however well disposed His Majesty's Ministers might be to grant a Court of Escheat, and a settlement to the Inhabitants, besides a clear and correct statement of grievances, to shew that the people desire no more than should be granted in justice and equity, it requires a degree of public excitement to prove the necessity, and to justify Ministers in the opinion of those who have such great interests at stake in the Colony, before they (Ministers) could make the concessions desired.

There are none who can judge of pain like those who suffer, and it is felt to be a great hardship to a portion of the Tenantry, who may amount to one in five, that have it in their power to pay their rent, by frugality and unwearyed industry, to find themselves, like the racehorse compelled to carry weight in proportion to their powers.

When the deputation returned from presenting the Petition of the County to His Excellency, the disappointment produced considerable excitement amongst the Inhabitants. To allow this excitement to pass off, by giving it vent in a different direction, I promised, at the Meeting of the 14th of November, that if they agreed to the Resolutions which were published in the *Gazette* of the 22d of that month, that I would prepare Resolutions for the next meeting which would come nearer to their wishes, as there would be an opportunity to explain their nature in presence of the Sheriff. It was my desire that Mr. Coffin should be always present at any Meeting, to witness that nothing should be agreed to, to oppose the authority of Government; but as the Inhabitants were desirous to have some Resolutions prepared against the payment of rent, it was my desire that the Sheriff should be requested to attend at the Meeting; but as he was not at the meeting, I had no opportunity to publish the view I had of the Resolutions, but took the next opportunity which offered, and that was at the head of St. Peter's