

prevailed, and will ultimately alienate the affections of the people, even from the Government of England itself.

That among the additional grievances of which the people of this province have to complain, your petitioners would invite the attention of Your Majesty to the fact, that his Excellency, Matthew Lord Aylmer, is still continued in the Government of this province, after having been formally accused in the aforesaid petition, of "illegal, unjust and unconstitutional conduct," and after having borne himself towards the representatives of the people of Lower Canada in a manner insulting to a body, intrusted with legislative functions and destructive of the respect which should be due to Your Majesty's representative.

That the acts of the Governor-in-chief, of which the people of this province have still to complain, were for the most part enumerated in the aforesaid petition to Your Majesty; that since that time, the vindictive and bitter feelings, together with the arbitrary and unbecoming conduct which his Excellency has displayed towards the people of this province, have created an universal feeling of discontent towards his Excellency's administration.

That among the just subjects of complaint against the present administration of this province, the system which is exhibited in the distribution of offices, necessarily holds a conspicuous place, that the chief recommendation to office continues to be a display of marked and bitter animosity towards the majority of the people of this province; that it is seldom men of French Canadian origin find their way into office under any circumstances; but when they are appointed, it is not until they have alienated themselves from the sympathies of the people, and allied themselves with the factious minority opposed to the wishes and interests of the country; and that even the sacred character of justice has been recently polluted in its source by the appointing to the high office of judge of the King's Bench for the district of Montreal, a man who was a violent and decided partisan of the administration of the Earl of Dalhousie, and the declared enemy of the laws which he is sworn to administer; and also by the appointment of a great number of commissioners for the trial of small causes, in different parts of the country, intentionally selected on the eve of a general election, from among the notorious partisans of the present administration.

That another cause of complaint, which has arisen since the aforesaid petition of the commons of Lower Canada to Your Majesty, is the culpable indifference betrayed by the Governor-in-chief on the subject of the frightful ravages committed by the Asiatic cholera during the last summer; that a few days after the existence of the dreadful scourge in the city of Montreal was ascertained, the corporation of the said city, in accordance with its strict line of duty, passed a series of resolutions authorizing an application to the Governor-in-chief for an extension of the quarantine regulations to the port of Montreal, and for an aid for the purpose of forwarding the destitute emigrants to their destination; that the answer of the Governor was more than a bare refusal; it was marked by coldness and insult; that your petitioners are firmly of opinion that the virulence which the disease subsequently assumed in the said city of Montreal would have been considerably mitigated had the head of the administration complied with the prayer of the corporation; and that the people of the country generally, and more especially the surviving relatives of the 1,300 victims who died in Montreal, and of the thousands in the province who have fallen victims to the disease, look upon the conduct of his Excellency as one of the principal causes of their suffering and bereavement.

That since the aforesaid petition of the Commons of Lower Canada, Your Majesty's Government, in opposition to the prayer of the said petition, as well as to the numerous representations on that subject submitted to Your Majesty by the House of Assembly, and by several of its authorized agents, has sanctioned the sale of lands belonging to this province to several individuals using the title of the "British North American Land Company;" and your petitioners also have reason for believing that Your Majesty's Government have likewise sold to the individuals aforesaid extensive tracts of land belonging to this province, and thereby have taxed this colony, contrary to the most important and indisputable of the birth-rights of British subjects, which were more particularly acknowledged and confirmed to colonies with local legislatures by the faith and honour of the British Parliament, pledged by the declaratory Act of 1778; the violation of which principle, recognized in said Act, led to the rightful and successful resistance of the former British colonies, and dismemberment of the British empire: That your petitioners, viewing with alarm such an encroachment upon their political privileges, would fain believe that it has been made without considering their constitutional rights, and the provisions of said declaratory Act; that your petitioners, nevertheless, solemnly protest against this violation of the most sacred rights of the people of Lower Canada, and pray Your Majesty to recommend to your Parliament the immediate repeal of the Act passed in favour of the said Land Company; that your petitioners have reason to believe that the said tax is now being paid into the colonial chest of this province for the disposal of the Executive, without the sanction, and in defiance of the expressed will of the Commons of Lower Canada; that your petitioners anticipate with fear, as a consequence thereof, a frightful increase of corruption in this province; that in addition to the fears