

afraid to submit himself to the judgment of the country upon any charge that might be brought against him. In truth, however, Mr. Bidwell was never threatened with a prosecution—nor was it ever intended that any should be instituted against him, and this I am convinced he well knew. But although such was the feeling entertained towards him by his political opponents, is it *now quite clear* that he was as innocent as they believed him to be? What is the meaning of this disclosure made by his friend and apologist “A UNITED EMPIRE LOYALIST?” “*In the examination of some of the insurgents I have been informed it appeared that they had gone to Mr. Bidwell some time before the insurrection to ask his opinion about the measures recommended by Mackenzie, and Mr. B. replied that he had no opinion to give—that he had altogether retired from politics!*” So then, notwithstanding the duty of his allegiance—notwithstanding the oath he had taken to disclose and make known all traitorous conspiracies against his Sovereign, Mr. Bidwell although apprised of the measures recommended by Mackenzie—although he was asked his opinion of them, felt that he discharged his duty to his country, by merely stating that “*he had no opinion to give—that he had altogether retired from politics!*” If this be true, and most assuredly the communication of “A UNITED EMPIRE LOYALIST,” bears internal evidence of having been compiled from facts “furnished by authority,” there is ample grounds for supposing that Mr. Bidwell had other and more cogent reasons for leaving Upper Canada than the desire alleged to have been expressed by Sir Francis Head. Any one wishing to obtain the probable explanation of these reasons will find it in any work upon Criminal Law, under the title “Misprision of Treason”—of this crime Mr. Bidwell was guilty, if as his friend states he was informed of the designs of the Traitors before the rebellion, and neglected to disclose them.

I will now close the observations I have felt it my duty to make, by calmly remarking upon the singular inconsistency of “a United Empire Loyalist,” in attempting to agitate the public mind at this moment of all others, upon a matter so little entitled to consideration at his hands, if he really have “no fellowship with the leading political opinions” of Mr. Bidwell. It may be, that a United Empire Loyalist is the determined enemy of Sir F. Head & feels gratification in assailing his policy upon every occasion when he thinks he can excite feelings of hostility against it; but it may be asked, is it becoming, or is it manifesting a decent respect for the strongly and unequivocally expressed wishes of the loyal inhabitants of this Province of all parties, that peace and harmony should be restored to it, to endeavour to rouse into angry and indignant display, the same passions and the same party spirit, that has so recently been subdued, and which while it existed produced the most disastrous results? I feel satisfied that the great body of the people of this Province deprecate the discussion which “A United Empire Loyalist” is attempting to excite. Every one knows that if Mr. Bidwell has had injury done him, redress is open to him through other and more legitimate channels than angry discussion in a newspaper, and it will be difficult for the Correspondent of the Herald to persuade his readers that a disinterested desire to obtain justice for an al-

leged wrong, is the true reason for his address to the public.

Sir Francis Head is absent from this Province, having voluntarily resigned the Government into the hands of his Sovereign. His administration is now matter of history, and it is the right of every one to discuss it, and express his opinion upon its merits. The imperfectibility of human nature forbids the belief that he, at all times and upon all occasions, pursued that course of policy which in the event proved entirely free from error. But there is one point upon which every candid and upright man must agree, viz his ardent, sincere, and enthusiastic attachment to British Institutions, and British connection. When he arrived in this Province he found a party in the ascendant whose political opinions he believed were hostile to the maintenance of the authority of his Sovereign, and to the real and permanent interests of the people he was appointed to govern. With a noble courage and unflinching resolution he devoted his vigorous and active mind to the redemption of the country from the baneful influence by which it was kept in constant agitation, its best interests betrayed, and its energies paralyzed. He commenced his measures by a calm and dignified appeal to the reason & good feeling of the opponents of the government; he was met with insult & scorn—& at length the long deluded Electors saw that they had been yielding their support to the enemies of their cherished Constitution, & not to those who honestly aimed at advancing their welfare; & they called upon Sir Francis Head to relieve them from the discredit of being represented by men who had so grossly deceived them. He complied with their Petitions, and a political regeneration was accomplished in this Province, such as probably was never before witnessed in any other Colony, and at the moment Sir Francis Head left Upper Canada distinction of political parties might be said to have been annihilated.—Do we then owe the man who has afforded us the opportunity of gaining for ourselves these important advantages, and relieving our character from the foul charge of disloyalty that had been preferred against it, no debt of gratitude, no feeling of thankfulness and respect for the good he has done for us, and which he did not hesitate to peril his own person, character, and fortune in achieving? Is it because a difference of opinion may exist upon some abstract question, or some isolated point of policy, that all which previously commanded our admiration & approval, is to be blotted out from our recollection, & the moment his back is turned, the language of applause is to be changed to that of condemnation? I have too good an opinion of the moral honesty and generous feelings of my fellow subjects in Upper Canada, to believe that they will approve of the attempt to fasten such an imputation upon them, however plausibly or earnestly urged; and I entertain the confident belief that they will resist every attempt, however speciously made, to draw them into political discussions, which can be productive of no good, but may lead to infinite evil. The public mind requires tranquillity and repose, and whoever attempts to prevent its perfect establishment is an enemy to his country.

Your obdient Servant,
C. A. HAGERMAN.

Toronto, 17th May, 1838.