

No. 73.
Sir F. B. Head
to
Lord Glenelg,
20th March 1838.

Enclosures.

To His Excellency Sir Francis Bond Head, Baronet, Knight Commander of the Royal Hanoverian Guelphic Order, Knight of the Prussian Military Order of Merit, Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Upper Canada, &c. &c. &c.

May it please your Excellency,

The undersigned Loyalists of the Town of Port Burwell and Vicinity, in the District of London, have just learnt with painful Feelings and Emotions, that your Excellency had, in consequence of a Difference of Opinion with the Colonial Ministers, in September last submitted to Her Majesty's Government your Resignation of the Government of this Province, and that it had been accepted of.

In approaching your Excellency on this momentous Occasion we want Language to express our Sense of your Excellency's Worth and persevering Energies in supporting that Bulwark of our Liberties, the Constitution, during the short Period of your eventful Administration. Beseet as you were, on your Arrival amongst us, with a variegated and most wicked Combination of a heartless and traitorous Clique of Men, who had long sought a Separation of this noble Province from the Mother Country, you yet, with the Boldness and Freedom of an unshackled Mind, almost singly met and exposed their Abominations to the plain View of a loyal and a generous People; though the Difficulties with which you were beset had nearly overcome the Country's Hopes, spreading Dismay, Disunion, and Discord, by which the Midnight of civil, political, and moral Darkness had well nigh covered the Land miserably with its gloomy Mantle, your Excellency then nobly stepped forth, and in a constitutional Appeal to the People of this loyal Province you were more than sustained; and the Result of that Appeal fully bespoke the Wisdom of your Policy, the Strength of your Mind, the Justice of the Cause of Truth and Reason, and the redeeming Qualities of good Subjects, when aided by a true Knowledge of Things on which to found their Verdict. But the murderous Clique, who always boasted of public Opinion, were not willing to submit to the Effect and Result of their own Doctrines, but traitorously, wickedly, and murderously conspired to overthrow that very Government to which they had hitherto *professed* to be the most loyal.

The undersigned had long regarded the Arrival of your Excellency in this Province as a Means, under Divine Providence, of checking the Rebellion then rapidly progressing; but when, through the Disappointment of those Men, even of your Executive Council, who were for transferring the Authority of the Crown into their own Hands, desperate Preparations were making for open Revolt, many Loyalists regarded with painful Anxiety your Excellency's seeming Apathy in calling upon them to disperse the Rebels by Force. They can but acknowledge the mysterious Ways of Providence in bringing this unnatural and cruel Rebellion to a happy and speedy Termination. The Result still bears out your Excellency in the Course you have pursued.

The heterogeneous Medley of Principles contended for by those pretended Lovers of "Civil and Religious Liberty" has long engendered in the Minds of the unwary those practical Feelings of Strife, Immorality, and Irreligion which is in reality the Views of their Leaders, in sacrificing Honour, Honesty, Truth, Morality, and Religion to the Moloch of their own Emolument.

Every paternal Act of the best of Governments has been twisted and turned many Ways to excite the *pretended* religious Feelings of the weak and simple, under the specious Garb of Liberty of Conscience — a By-word and Shibboleth for the most treacherous Designs upon the very People who are duped by their pretended Love of Freedom.

In frequent Changes there is often Danger, and always some Degree of Disorganization; and inasmuch as your Excellency had, by your steady, firm, and unflinching Conduct in support of our Constitution, opened the Way for our Advancement as a People, we had hoped your Excellency might remain in your present exalted Station, until the mild and refreshing Fruits of Peace and Contentment should spread the benign Influence of hopeful Security, in the Enjoyment of the Fruits of honest Industry throughout the Province; but though, through the Course of official Injunctions from the Colonial Office, the Laurel is thus plucked from your deserving Brow, an imperishable Monument of a Country's Gratitude will shed its hallowed Influence around your Retirement;