

**To His Excellency SIR JOHN COLBORNE, Knight Commander
of the most Honorable Military Order of the Bath, Lieutenant
Governor of the Province of Upper Canada, &c. &c. &c.**

We, His Majesty's dutiful and loyal Subjects, inhabitants of the District of Gore, express our satisfaction, that Your Excellency has been chosen to represent His gracious Majesty in the Government of this Province; and we beg leave to congratulate Your Excellency thereupon.

The recent occurrences upon the question of the civil rights of certain inhabitants of this Province, gave rise to a practical manifestation of His Majesty's gracious disposition towards his Canadian people, which has not failed to impress us with a due sense of gratitude, and to encourage us in the belief, that whenever we suffer under misrule, we have only to lay our complaints at the foot of the Throne in order to obtain redress. We accept the pledge in the conciliatory spirit in which we presume your Excellency has been sent among us, and have not noticed, without a proper measure of pleasing anticipation, your first efforts in recommending to our Provincial Legislature the repeal of that odious law, the 44th of the late King; your recommendation of improvements in the system of education, and the amelioration of the public roads; nor are the measures in favour of emigration, and the reformation of the Legislative Council, contemplated by your Excellency, least in the scale of importance for the promotion of our future prosperity. Much indeed should we have been gratified, had we perceived the co-operation of the Legislative Council with your Excellency in those valuable and important objects, which have long been counteracted by the policy of the late administration, and which objects, unless embarrassed by those still unhappily forming the Councils of your Excellency, will, in their consummation, restore confidence in the administration of the Government: for it cannot be denied, that public opinion had lost both faith and hope in the past management of our public affairs.

We avail ourselves of this opportunity of addressing your Excellency to express our abhorrence and indignation at the late base transaction which occurred at the Town of Hamilton, and evidently intended to bring the people of this District, if not of the Province, into dispute with your Excellency, and at the same time, to gratify the personal resentment of the perpetrator of the outrage, who, from the most powerful, circumstantial, and presumptive, evidence, is still reiterating the most libellous Editorial productions in the Gore Gazette, tending seriously to impair the character and interests of the Province, as will be seen by the New-York Albion of the fourteenth February last, wherein it is represented, upon his authority, as being in a state of treason and incipient rebellion.

It is only within these very few years, from the noxious accession of some individuals to our Society, aided by the circulation of a paper from a prostituted local Press, and the assimilation of a portion of the magistracy to persons whose habits of life are destructive of the good order of any community, that dissensions, jealousies, and persecutions, have risen to a height unparalleled in any British Colony.

We had hoped, that the accession of your Excellency to this Government would have afforded

a restraint upon the abuses which have so long prevailed with impunity, and to which we have hitherto submitted with a patience that has evidently made the existing evils more and more inveterate.

If it be true, that Magistrates, acting judicially, are not amenable to the Court of King's Bench for their misconduct, however exceptionable that conduct may be, we can see no hope of redress, unless your Excellency will interpose in cases of glaring injustice between the people and those abusing the power with which they are entrusted over them. And we respectfully inform your Excellency, that Magistrates have hitherto been appointed to favor particular political views, with too little regard to fitness of temper, character, and conduct.

The proceedings so discreditable to the administration of justice, which took place in the April Quarter Sessions at Hamilton in this District, in the year one thousand, eight hundred and twenty-eight, and which resulted in an application for the removal of Mr. George Rolph from the office of the Clerk of the Peace, were submitted in a series of affidavits to his late Excellency Sir Peregrine Maitland, and are within the knowledge of your Excellency. We had hoped, that it was only necessary for such facts to be laid before the Executive Government to put a stop to such outrageous scenes in our Courts of Justice; but, it was with pain and mortification, that we found the Magistrates sheltered by the power which we hoped would have been exercised for the correction of their abuses; for, notwithstanding the disclosure of the corruption so publicly witnessed on the above occasion by a crowded Court House, and since established upon oath, and become notorious in the Country, the same Magistrates continue in authority. This impunity has operated as an encouragement, and rendered injustice and oppression so much more dangerous and daring amongst us, that the same Magistrates, with others of recent appointments enlisted under them, have engrafted upon those shameful transactions above alluded to, the further proceedings, of the late Court of Quarter Sessions, when a number of the Magistrates combined to remove Mr. George Rolph from the office of Clerk of the Peace in a manner violently repugnant to what we believe to be law, and know to be justice.

The principle of injustice which has marked Mr. Rolph's fate the other day may be applied to ourselves to-morrow, and it has therefore become necessary for us to make common cause in struggling against the further abuse of power and violation of the plain rules of justice with impunity. Out of those proceedings in the April Court of General Quarter Sessions, in one thousand, eight hundred and twenty-eight, an application was, for the first time, made to his late Excellency by some of the Magistrates of this District for the removal of Mr. George Rolph, as Clerk of the Peace. Failing in this attempt, the Magistrates, in the late Court of Quarter Sessions, in open Court, read a document (a copy whereof is annexed to this petition) containing certain charges against Mr. George Rolph, as