

of the loyal people of this colony. That measure, in its naked deformity, has met with no approval. It has been carried merely because the British members of the government dared not to oppose the determined will of the French leader. By sanctioning that measure his Excellency the Earl of Elgin has brought the royal authority into contempt, has disturbed public tranquility, and it is our firm opinion that his continuance in his high position cannot conduce to the public peace or prosperity.

An insidious attempt made by the present Ministry to increase the French Canadian representation in Parliament, by so arranging the electoral districts of Lower Canada as to distribute the British inhabitants in small numbers among overwhelming bodies of the French, we regard with the most profound apprehension, as calculated to perpetuate that civil discord which has tended so much to the ruin of this great Province.

A gross violation of constitutional usages has been perpetrated, and a precedent sought to be established, which, if it be made a precedent, will have forever destroyed the independence and utility of the Legislative Council. That body according to true Constitutional Law has distinct legislative functions. It is not intended as a mere Register of the Decrees of the Legislative Assembly. But the Government now in power, in order to carry a particular measure, and in open violation of this principle, suddenly elevated to that House a number of persons of doubtful merit, and previously unknown in public life.

By our Constitutional Law Her Most Gracious Majesty is alone invested with the authority to make appointments to the Legislative Council—a law which, if carried out, would effect a salutary check over the unscrupulous use of power in the Colony—notwithstanding which Her Majesty's principal Secretary of State for the Colonies transmitted to the Colonial Government, blank writs of Mandamus, thereby surrendering up into improper hands his Sovereign's high Prerogative.

The present Ministry have also attempted to force upon the country a measure by which numbers of influential men would be deprived of the Elective Franchise; while that same Franchise in Lower Canada was by law extended to a particular class to whom in the Western part of the Province the like privilege was denied.

#### INHABITANTS OF CANADA :

Fearlessly asserting the truth of our declarations, and appealing to Heaven for the justice of our cause, we lay before you these statements on subjects which have engaged our attention. For the most part new to the discussion of public affairs, and not invested with legislative powers, this assembly can only deliberate upon such things as seem to be for your welfare. The attainment of that welfare must be confided to the individual energies, exertions, and enthusiasm of every man among you who would rather behold his country flourish under paternal, than droop under the withering influence of factious legislation.

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