

constituted in the usual manner, and the members of the Council to be members for life, reserving power to his Majesty to annex to certain honours an hereditary right of sitting in the Council. All laws and ordinances of the province were to remain in force till altered by this new legislature. They would consequently retain as much of the law of England as they now had, and chose to keep it, and they would possess the means of introducing as much more as they might think convenient. THE HABEUS CORPUS ACT WAS ALREADY A LAW, BY AN ORDINANCE OF THE PROVINCE, AND THIS INVALUABLE RIGHT WAS TO BE CONTINUED AS A FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE OF THE CONSTITUTION.

These were the most important points; but there were others to which the attention of the House was called by his Majesty's Message. It was meant to make provision for a Protestant clergy in both divisions, by an allotment of lands in proportion to those already granted; and as in one of them the majority of the inhabitants would be Catholics, it was meant to provide that it shall not be lawful for his Majesty in future to assent to grants of lands for this purpose, under the sanction of the Council and Assembly of either division, without first submitting them to the consideration of the British parliament. The tenures which had been the subject of dispute, were to be settled in Lower Canada by the local legislature; in Upper Canada the settlers being mostly British, or British colonists, the tenures were to be soccage tenures; and in order to prevent any such dispute as had been the cause of separating the thirteen states from the mother country, it was provided that the British parliament should impose no taxes but such as were necessary for the regulation of trade and commerce; and to guard against the abuse of this power, such taxes were to be levied and to be disposed by the legislature of each division. As the constitution which he had thus briefly opened could not be in a state of activity for some time, his Majesty was to be empowered to make temporary regulations, to be in force for six months after the establishment of the new constitution.