

6-7 EDWARD VII., A. 1907

"may be erected into a new Province, with a Government similar to the "Royal Governments before the Revolution in America ; but no Answer "has as yet been given, I suppose it will be laid before the two Houses of "Parliament for their consideration."

From this Paragraph you may see that their Views are directed nearly in the same Manner as our own ; and we should think that by Uniting with their Agents at home, it might prove one of the Most effectual Measures for Obtaining our earnest desires,—a House of Assembly.—However supine and indifferent about modes of Government the Canadians may be esteemed, they Assuredly would consider themselves highly insulted and wronged, were they to see a part of the Province of which they are Inhabitants erected into a New and free Government, whilst they were continued, under the disgraceful System of being excluded from the smallest participation in their own Legislation.—

From the different Conversations you mention to have had with Lord Sydney on this Business, we had hopes that some steps would have been taken by him in Order to procure the free Suffrages of the People here ; but the Measure lately adopted of recalling Lieu^t Governor Hamilton and placing the power of Governor & Commander in Chief as well of the Province as of the Troops in the hands of a Military Gentleman,¹ indicates so strongly the Aversion of the Minister from those means, as to preclude every hope that the People at large will be called upon to give their Voice with freedom,—for how many are to be found even amongst the higher and more independent Classes of Mankind who will give their opinion freely in Opposition to that Person who has the Power of commanding them at pleasure ; fixing without control the duration of their Servitude and the recompence of their Labour And, to enforce his Orders has a Military Force under his own immediate direction—You will easily suggest that the present is not a fit season for obtaining new Signatures, but tho' we shall wait with patience for a discussion of our Petitions, we shall never lose the Object of them in View.

Our Requests are Rights belonging to us as British Subjects which sooner or later will We hope be granted ; for we cannot allow Ourselves to think that the good sense of the British Senators will for ever continue the unwise and disgraceful difference which at present distinguishes this Province from all the other Colonies belonging to Great Britain—

It affords us the highest satisfaction that your opinion coincides with Ours, and that you are resolved to prosecute the prayer of our Petition with firmness and Temper.—

We are happy that you consider the welfare of the Province so connected with your own Interests as to render both Objects of your Steady pursuits

¹ Brigadier General Henry Hope. See note 1, p. 793.