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lawful, with its flags and absurd resolutions: nor did Sir George Arthur refuse an audience and reply to its three deputies, though not one of them was in the Commission of the Peace: in fact, courtesy is cheap, and always expedient.

The mob meeting—*alias* Durham meeting—on Yonge-street, was most wrongfully opposed by the Sheriff: and its bloody record will long mark the spirit of the Compact, now, happily, humbled in the dust.

In short, to meet in any place, at any time, and in any number, is a *right* of man, acknowledged, acted on, and never interfered with, when peace is not endangered, at home. To submit to delegation, is a *duty* of man—because no business can be matured by a multitude; and when delegates are chosen, there is a beginning of order, a hope of good, and the best opportunity for calm discussion, and sound conclusion.

In England, county meetings are called by the Sheriff, on requisition. He presides, verifies resolutions and petitions, which are received by the Sovereign or Parliament, as regular proceedings, demanding respect—not in courtesy, but in *right*. Proceedings of mob meetings, are received only in courtesy; and proceedings—resolutions or petitions—of regularly appointed delegates, are more worthy of being courteously received, as the actors can better be identified—better be conversed or corresponded with.

Meeting delegates, may be called a Convention, a Congress, or a Conference: it matters not what the name is. Such meetings may either be regularly constituted under the law of the land, for certain ends, as, in the United States, Conventions are regularly appointed, from time to time, to draw up and amend State constitutions; or, they may be constituted, at pleasure, by any set of men, simply to express their *will*, or effect any lawful purpose. Between these kinds of meetings, there is a clear distinction; and in the United States, where Conventions are constantly holding, there is never either doubt or danger from confounding the one with the other. Conventions, in the United States, are the safety valves by which the ignorance and vehemence of that country are kept from doing harm; and in the course of time, experience, yet much wanted there, will mature all for good.

I being banished, and the gagging law repealed, there was a general meeting, in 1820, the result of which was thus reported in British newspapers.

"We learn that the late election for members of Parliament for Upper Canada, was terminated in the almost unanimous choice of persons who are political friends of Mr. Gourlay. It would appear from this, that the popular voice is against the administration."*

If this was true, how easy was it for my political friends to follow up the object of the Convention, and invite a Commission of Enquiry from England. I felt confident that they would; and, after redeeming my pledge, by printing a volume of Statistics, put in press in London, a second volume, preparatory to enquiry, without which I saw this volume would prove but a will-o'-the-wisp. Alas! on "the tenth day of September, eighteen hundred and twenty-one,"† I had reason to regret my

confidence; and from that day, all was ruin and wretchedness, with my work, myself, and the province. My "political friends" proved good for nothing but confirming despotism; and it was not till after another election that they had spirit even to move for the land unjustly withheld from those who were members of the Convention, as recorded above.

These last recorded documents complete the case for judgment; and I would invoke the gravest consideration to what follows.

Let it be premised, that the Attorney-General is not to be viewed merely as an individual, but as the mouth piece of the local Government, and, in all probability, writer of Sir Peregrine Maitland's speeches, first and last exhibited.

The first resolution of the Assembly, 1826, is assailed, through me, whose "*principles and plans*," the Attorney General declares "*hostile to the Government*," &c. He maintains a tissue of falsehood prejudicial to my character, after his myrmidons had twice failed, in Courts of Justice, to prove aught against me; and after my character and conduct, both at home and abroad, had been fully vindicated—first on the warrant above copied out, and again on a false warrant, shamelessly acted on; after, too, he himself had pleaded against me, while palpably enfeebled with cruel imprisonment, which imprisonment the United Parliament has unanimously found "*illegal, unconstitutional, and without excuse or palliation*."

Nor is he discomfited by one vote of the Assembly, and after members of Convention are acquitted of crime—members who had "*never been tried by any lawful or constitutional tribunal whatever*," but, voting for the amendment on the third resolution, he remains steadfast in malignity, establishing only one truth, that "*Robert Gourlay was the principal instigator of the Convention*"—a truth which Robert Gourlay is ever proud to acknowledge.

Members of Convention, my "*political friends*," unsentenced by three amendments, scandalizing me and decency, have yet to run the gauntlet, pertinaciously opposed by the Attorney General and his tail.

Finally, the Assembly "*begs leave humbly to approach*" his Majesty. Humbly approach, indeed! praying for land unjustly withheld ten years, after the lapse of six, wherein my "*political friends*" should have stood up manfully asserting their rights, those of the people, and mine, most of all, trodden down—stood up to re-organize the Convention, or stop supplies till an address to the Throne was carried home by Commissioners—not sent home by a Lieutenant Governor, who could misrepresent every fact, and disguise every feature.

But what was the immediate consequence of their *humble approach*, through him?—a denial of the "*principle*" asserted by the Assembly, and an openly declared confirmation of despotism!

We here see the Lieutenant Governor, not admitting "*serious and unmerited imputation*," affecting not only "*them and their posterity*," but also the "*people who appointed them*"—not admitting "*a system, the direct tendency of which is the prevention of the free expression of opinion*;" but the contrary. We see a declared purpose, to hold members of Convention up to his Majesty as objects of pity, and pleaders for pardon—individuals who "*were, for a time, so far imposed upon as to become promo-*

* See general Introduction to Statistical Account of Upper Canada, page LIX.

† See page 560, vol 2, Statistical Account of Upper Canada.