

solutions of
act of the
urrences to
d when the
of Dele-
could be

o make his
little room
knowledge
or a redress
interfered
led, that a
and unre-
it might be
given from
rved by the

ced peace-

Lieutenant
ch no where
circumscribe
Council is
tives of the
oppression,
n," draw a
stituents.
ention begs
people; but
three gentle-
shed for loy-
ence of the

nce libelling
of means to
—an act so
ent repealed
dient." In
mplished its
e than mur-

to this vil-
be dwelt on;
g pretence,
ad, "to meet
some such
Parliament

never did any thing so base, although the Irish Parliament did; and soon after sold its own existence, through the agency of a man who put a period to his own.

The act was unconstitutional, as all acts are, which mock common sense, and counteract the grand principles of liberty. It would have justified rebellion; which never can be justified, so long as the people are permitted to meet peaceably, by delegate, for the expression of opinion, and carrying out lawful objects.

The repeal of this act, left the people of Canada without excuse, in taking up arms against the Government: and asking for a Convention, as McKenzie did, when Sir Francis B. Head sent him a flag of truce, was among the silly doings of his low and blackguard outbreak. The people had then a right to meet in Convention, unasked for; but, unfortunately, they had no leader—no one to guide them in wisdom's ways—"in paths of peace."

The Home Government does not prevent Chartists from meeting, by delegate, in Convention. Even their mob meetings are not checked, when peaceable. The mob meeting, at Thorold, three years ago—called a "DURHAM MEETING"—was 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.

Meetings of 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 election, 1820, the result of which was thus reported, in British newspapers.

"We learn that the late election for members of Parliament for Upper Canada, has 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 to 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

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

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