

to your Majesty and to themselves, most humbly, and with the least possible delay, to lay their representations on the subject of the said Bill at the foot of your Majesty's Throne.

THAT no alteration in the aforesaid statute had, at any time, been, publicly, prayed for, by any of the authorities constituted under it, or by any portion of your Majesty's subjects residing in this Province; but, on the contrary, all classes and descriptions of people therein, have uniformly expressed their inviolable attachment to the said Constitution, and have but recently, cheerfully hazarded their lives and fortunes in defence of your Majesty's Government, as established by the said statute in this Province.

THAT the said statute was granted to your Majesty's subjects in this Province, conformable to the Royal promise contained in the Proclamation of the 7th October, 1763, after various Petitions for, and against, the proposed measure from the different descriptions of persons whose interests were to be affected thereby, after a Royal message to Parliament recommending the division of the Province, and after a hearing at the Bar of the Honourable the House of Commons, whereby the said Act was received and justly regarded by all your Majesty's subjects in these parts of your dominions, as a solemn compact, forming, by the highest authority in the British Empire, the legal and permanent guarantee of their liberty, their property and dearest rights.

THAT the said statute, modelled upon the Constitution of the parent state, by some of the best and wisest of her Statesmen, provides sufficient powers for the remedying of abuses, redressing of grievances, allaying discontents, and promoting the general welfare of the Province, without the necessity of those Legislative interferences on the part of the supreme Government, which in similar cases, have been found so pernicious, by transforming discontents, purely local and temporary, into dangerous misunderstandings between the Colonies and the Mother Country.

THAT notwithstanding various obstacles and difficulties, which the powers and operation of the Constitution, established by the said statute, are gradually removing, the population of this Province has been progressive in a ratio fully equal to that of the United States of America, without a proportionate increase from emigration; the public revenue has proved nearly sufficient to cover all the necessary Colonial expenditure, and Trade and Agriculture, notwithstanding the extraordinary pressure of the present times, have, in the aggregate, greatly improved.

THAT your Petitioners under the foregoing circumstances, cannot but feel, that, if the said Bill, which was introduced without the knowledge of the Inhabitants of this Province and is in direct opposition to their wishes, were to pass into a Law, besides the mischiefs which they have to apprehend from its provisions, it would leave them and their posterity without any sufficient guarantee for their remaining rights and liberties; all of which might, upon the same precedent, be at any time, endangered by secret and partial representations, or placed at the disposal of a Colonial Legislature, unequally constituted, and unacquainted with the interests, the feelings and happiness of the great body of your Majesty's subjects in this Colony.

THAT the differences which have recently existed between this Province and that of Upper-Canada, relative to revenue, and which have been publicly alleged as the principal motive for introducing the said Bill, have not been a natural consequence of the division of the two Provinces, but have arisen solely from temporary causes, which might at any time have been removed by Legislative enactments on the part of these Colonies respectively, whereby each Province would have confined itself to the natural course of collecting its own reve-

lued under one government, and which had so happily been set at rest by the division of the said Provinces; and that a Legislature so constituted would be inadequate to the purposes of enlightened and beneficial Legislation, and could only produce enactments founded on insufficient information, and injurious to the rights, interests, feelings and circumstances of those for whom they might be made.

THAT the geographical situation and difference of climate, and the extent of the two Provinces, some of the settled parts of which are upwards of fifteen hundred miles apart, as well as the difficulties of the communications in new countries, form insuperable obstacles to the proposed Legislative Union, and would, by the sacrifices required of the Members for the purpose of attending in their places and of their constituents to communicate on their local wants with the seat of the Legislature, effectually deprive a very great portion of your Majesty's subjects in both Provinces of their just rights and their due share in the Legislation.

THAT your Petitioners, with the most unfeigned grief, have been unable to disguise from themselves the general tendency of the said Bill to affect injuriously the dearest interests of one description of your Majesty's subjects, forming nine-tenths of the whole population of this Province; and your Petitioners particularly lament that clauses should have been introduced therein, relating to the language and religious establishments of so great a proportion of the inhabitants of this part of your Majesty's dominions, which have a direct tendency to create jealousies and prejudices equally fatal to the happiness and quiet of the subject, and adverse to the dignity, wisdom and justice of your Majesty's Government.

THAT the clause of the said Bill which prohibits, in the proceedings and debates of the proposed Assembly, the use of the French Language, the only one spoken and understood by a great majority of the Inhabitants of this Province, would indirectly disqualify them from being elected to that Assembly, and would amount in some degree, to a positive deprivation, in respect to them, of that distinguished advantage of your Majesty's subjects; would embarrass and confine the elective franchise, by diminishing the number of persons fitted to represent the people and would form of the qualified persons a privileged class in a British Colony.

THAT the said Bill by allowing to Upper-Canada, which contains only about one fifth of the population of Lower-Canada, a representation equal to that of the latter Province, would thereby establish, in favor of a minority, a preference deeply humiliating to the Inhabitants of this Province, contrary to their rights as British subjects, and dangerous to their interests; that however anxious your Petitioners may be to preserve that portion of constitutional power in the passing of Laws regarding them, which is secured to them by the division of the two Provinces, they are desirous that their fellow subjects in Upper-Canada, may continue to enjoy a similar advantage in common with all your Majesty's other Colonies.

THAT the said Bill, besides the fatal sources of discord, injustice and confusion heretofore mentioned, contains various provisions relating to the disposal of monies raised on the subject in this Province, and other matters, which are contrary to the birthrights of your Petitioners as British subjects and the express declaration of Parliament.

MAY IT THEREFORE GRACIOUSLY PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY, that the said Bill do not pass into Law, —and that the Constitution and form of Government of this Province, as by the afore-mentioned statute happily established, may be preserved inviolate to your Petitioners and their posterity.

And your Majesty's Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

Lower-Canada,

1822.

N. B. The Petition to the two Houses is word for word the same as the above, with the exception of such difference in point of form and diction as is required by Parliamentary usage, when addressed to the King, Lords or Commons.