

1836. Reply
(at)



Toronto, 28th May, 1836.

The following is the Reply of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, to an Address presented this day from ELECTORS OF THE HOME DISTRICT, praying His Excellency to Dissolve the present House of Assembly.

GENTLEMEN:

The Addresses I have received, requesting me to Dissolve the present House of Assembly are so numerous—the signatures are so respectable, and the firm, manly language conveyed to me from all parts of the Province is so strongly corroborative of a feeling of general disapprobation of the harsh measure that has been resorted to, by stopping the Supplies, that I shall no longer hesitate to exercise my prerogative, by dissolving the Assembly.

With respect to a certain letter which you state, was "laid on the table of the House of Assembly a few hours before the Prorogation of the Legislature, purporting to come from the Speaker of the House of Assembly of Lower Canada, and addressed to the Speaker of the House of Assembly here," I have long refrained from noticing that document, although it has repeatedly been indignantly referred to in the Addresses from this Province, because, as the Resolution of the House of Assembly of Lower Canada, dated 15th February, merely authorised their Speaker to "transmit copies of the foregoing Resolutions to the Speakers of the several Assemblies of Upper Canada, and of the *Sister* Provinces, and to express the desire of this House cordially to co-operate with the said Assemblies, in all Constitutional measures calculated to promote the mutual interests of these Colonies," it was evident to me that as Mr. Speaker Papineau's duty was thus clearly prescribed to him, he was not authorised to tack to his official communication his own private sentiments, nor was he in any way justified in proclaiming them in the first person plural as follows:—

"These Ministers *we* impeach." "Were *we* to resign *ourselves* to a degrading system of servitude." "If misrule went on unchecked in any of those neighbouring Colonies without exciting *our* sympathy, *your* ills would soon become *our* ills, and *ours* would reach *you* in return." "If *you* have to complain of evils similar to *ours*, or of any other evils, all Constitutional means in the power of the people of this Province, would readily be resorted to, to aid *you* in their removal. Such good offices it is the duty of every Colony to render and to accept in turn."

It must be evident to every liberal-minded man, that the House of Assembly of Lower Canada did not authorise Mr. Papineau, in their name, to express to the House of Assembly of Upper Canada the foregoing sentiments, nor to designate His Majesty's Government as "the naked deformity of the Colonial system"; nor to term the Royal Commissioners "these deceitful agents"; nor to declare "that the state of society all over Continental America requires that the forms of its Government should approximate nearer to that selected UNDER PROPITIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES, and after mature consideration *by the wise Statesmen in the neighbouring Union*, than to those into which chance and past ages have moulded European societies."

What is the real character of Mr. Speaker Papineau's language—what is its latent meaning—what epithet the civilized world will give to it—whether the House of Assembly of Lower Canada will approve or condemn their Legislative name being thus taken in vain, are opinions which were so unequivocally expressed in the House of Assembly in this Province when the document in question was first breathed upon them, that I have no observation whatever to make on the subject. But as Mr. Speaker Papineau has thought proper to promulgate in this Province that "the people of the Canadas, labouring under the accumulative wrongs proceeding from an Act of Parliament, *unite as a man*," I feel it necessary publicly to repudiate that assertion, by declaring what the state of opinion in Upper Canada really is.

The people of Upper Canada detest democracy; they revere their Constitutional Charter, and are consequently staunch in allegiance to their King.

They are perfectly aware that there exist in the Lower Province one or two individuals who inculcate the idea, that this Province is about to be disturbed by the interference of foreigners, whose power and whose numbers will prove invincible.

In the name of every Regiment of Militia in Upper Canada, I publicly promulgate—
Let them come if they dare!