

No. 16.
Lord Glenelg
to
Sir F. B. Head,
20th August 1836.

Enclosures.

in Conversation. He requests therefore that you will be so good as to favour him, in Writing, with such Intelligence and Observations as you may think of Importance to bring under the Consideration of Government.

Robert Baldwin, Esq.
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. STEPHEN.

4, Trinity Court, Charing Cross,
13th July 1836.

My Lord,

I have to acknowledge the Receipt of a Letter from Mr. Stephen, in reply to mine of the 20th ultimo, requesting the Honour of an Interview with your Lordship on the public and private Grounds referred to in my former Letter.

As your Lordship does not deem it advisable to accede to my Request for a personal Interview, I will not trespass on your Lordship's Time by any further Reference to myself, or the Injustice of which I, and indeed all my late Colleagues, have Reason to complain, of having received at the Hands of the Lieutenant Governor. More than enough is already before your Lordship to place this in a very strong Light. Your Lordship, I feel assured, cannot approve of the Conduct of Sir Francis Head, however necessary you may imagine it to be not publicly to condemn it; and I can personally have no Desire to pursue the Subject. I will only take the Liberty of assuring your Lordship, that, as it was no Desire of Place that induced me to accept the Seat pressed upon me by Sir Francis Head, nothing but a Desire of justifying myself to the Government under which I was born, and to which I am both by Duty and Affection still most warmly attached, could, as far as I am myself personally concerned, have induced me to trespass on your Lordship by the Request. I shall take it for granted, however, that your Lordship will do us the Justice to point out any Particulars in our Conduct on the late Occasion which in your Estimation may appear culpable, or such as to call for further Explanation.

But, my Lord, I am deeply impressed with the Responsibility which the present State of Upper Canada necessarily throws upon every Man connected with it. As my native Country, its Prosperity is necessarily to me an Object of the most intense Anxiety. Educated in the warmest Attachment to the Monarchical Form of Government, believing it to be the best adapted to secure the Happiness of the People, and fully sensible that it can be maintained in Upper Canada only by means of the Connexion with the Mother Country, I have always been most earnestly anxious for the Continuation of that Connexion; I believe it to be now endangered; I sincerely believe the Crisis to have arrived which is to decide the ultimate Destiny of Upper Canada as a Dependency of the British Crown. I feel therefore that it would be criminal in me to refuse Compliance with your Lordship's Request to communicate with you in Writing on the Subject of the present State of that Province, and the Events which have recently taken place there. At the same Time, I cannot but feel that, although there may be some Advantage in this Mode of Communication, where Principles are merely to be laid down, they are more than counterbalanced by the Disadvantages attendant upon it where Principles are not only to be laid down but discussed, and the Details connected with them, and the political Situation of a Country in a State of high and dangerous Excitement, enlarged upon and disposed of.

I shall however, as clearly as I can, state to your Lordship my View of the present State of the Province with reference to the Principle contended for in the recent Memorial from the House of Assembly to the Imperial House of Commons, and the Value and Importance of that Principle in producing Harmony among the several Branches of the Provincial Legislature, and inspiring the People with Confidence in the Home and Provincial Governments; and will conclude with most respectfully submitting my Opinion as to the Course which, with all Deference for the Opinions of others, it appears to me to be absolutely necessary should be promptly taken for preserving the Connexion of that Colony with the Mother Country.

If it is the Desire of the Mother Country, which I of course assume it to be, to retain the Colony, it can only be done either by Force or with the Consent of the People of Upper Canada themselves. I take it for granted that Great Britain cannot desire to exercise a Government of the Sword, and that she will therefore