

of the affairs of this province, and our earnest supplication for immediate and effectual relief.

From the enviable state of peace and prosperity to which we had attained under the constitution bestowed upon us by Your Majesty's Royal Father and the Imperial Parliament, we are approaching to a state of anarchy and confusion. Unceasing attempts are made to destroy the confidence which has hitherto subsisted between the subjects of Your Majesty of different origin and language; the interests of agriculture and commerce, and the wants of the people, are neglected for the advancement of the cabals of party. Your Majesty's representative is falsely charged with partiality and injustice, in the exercise of the powers confided to him. Your Majesty's officers, both civil and military, are deliberately libelled as a combined faction, actuated by interest alone to struggle for the support of a corrupt Government, adverse to the rights and wishes of the people; and this unmerited abuse, we add with reluctance, has for years past been as frequent within the walls of the Assembly as without. Nor can it be doubted that this system has been adopted with a wicked intention to degrade the local authorities in the eyes of the people, and thereby ultimately to render them powerless and inefficient for the support of Your Majesty's Government in this province.

Every thing indicates a continuance, if not an increase, of the evils which we have briefly enumerated; for while Your Majesty's courts of law are accused and defamed, a competent tribunal within the colony, to which they might appeal for trial and vindication, is refused, whereby a timid instead of a fearless and independent exercise of their functions is to be apprehended: and, with a view to the completion of its designs, the Assembly has ventured on the daring step of addressing Your Majesty to render the Legislative Council elective.

The crisis at which we have arrived is pregnant with consequences of the deepest interest to the happiness and welfare of Your Majesty's subjects in this province; and at such a moment it would be criminal in the Legislative Council to withhold from Your Majesty the frank and candid avowal of its sentiments.

The efforts of the Assembly have been obviously directed, for several years past, to the attainment of power and influence at the expense of the Crown, and in direct violation of the constitutional rights and privileges of the Legislative Council. In illustration of this, we respectfully advert to the persevering endeavours of that House to obtain the entire control and disposal of all the provincial revenues and income, refusing, at the same time, to make any adequate permanent provision for the expenses of the civil government, and to provide for the independence of the judiciary; to the conditions and restrictions annexed to the votes of certain sums contained in the Bill of Supply sent up during the present session, which strike at the existence of Your Majesty's prerogative to appoint to all offices of honour or profit in the colony; to the claim advanced by the Assembly to preserve this extensive and important part of Your Majesty's dominions (in which there is room for millions of inhabitants) as a colony, to be settled only by Canadians of French origin and descent, contrary to the just and manifest rights of Your Majesty's natural-born subjects; and, lastly, in the attempt to induce Your Majesty to adopt a measure which would destroy the equilibrium of the constitution, by substituting an Elective Council for the intermediate branch established by law. In reference to the pretension last noticed, we humbly entreat Your Majesty's attention to the undeniable fact, that in proportion as Your Majesty has graciously been pleased to increase the constitutional weight and efficiency of the Legislative Council, by the addition of members unconnected with the local administration, and largely taken from the Assembly itself, the efforts of that House for its entire abolition have become more and more violent and daring.

That the constitution of government established in this province, under the Act passed in the 31st year of the reign of his late Majesty King George the Third, c. 31, has been efficacious in promoting the welfare and happiness of the inhabitants thereof, and in confirming their attachment to the British throne, are facts powerfully attested by the peaceable submission of the people to the laws, and the readiness with which they have on all occasions defended the province against foreign aggression, as well as by the petitions laid at the foot of the throne in the years 1814 and 1828; and the addresses, at those periods, of the Assembly itself, in which they entreated his late Majesty and the Imperial Parliament, "to maintain the inhabitants of Canada in the full enjoyment of the constitution as established by law, without any change whatsoever."

It was in the year 1831, after the general election for the Assembly now in session, and when some grounds of complaint against the local administration were in course of being redressed by the interposition of the Imperial Parliament, that a desire for a change in the constitution was first openly avowed in that body; and it is matter of astonishment, that a violent and reckless party in that House should be able to induce a majority of its members into an attempt to destroy a form of government, under which Your Majesty's Canadian people have enjoyed a state of peace, security and contentment scarcely exceeded in any part of the world, and against which no considerable portion of the people have yet formally complained.

While, therefore, the Legislative Council desire not to conceal from Your Majesty the actual state of the province, they are far from believing that the great body of the people yet participate in the views and wishes of the majority of the Assembly; but in a community in which education has made so little progress, even the well-disposed, though happy and contented, are too liable to be misled by the factious and designing.