

equally represented, those to whom a defective system of Government have given an unconstitutional preponderance, might make a handle of it to cause the expression of your opinion not to be looked upon as that of the population in general; and, by the operation of the same system, the representations of interested Public Functionaries, and of privileged persons in the Colony might reach the General Government of the Empire, carrying the same weight as those of Representatives freely elected by the whole people. This danger added to the wide local distance might cause measures adopted in the United Kingdom with the best intentions, but without practical and local knowledge, to be discordant with the true interests of the Province, and even to hurt those interests in essential points.

Your Committee humbly suggest, that in the event of the Imperial Government becoming convinced of the difficulties that have just been laid open, there would be the certain means of preventing them, by placing the people of the Country in general in a situation to express their opinion, and to recommend proper modifications through Delegates freely and indiscriminately chosen for that purpose, by all classes and out of all classes of the community, so as to harmonize with the interests of the Province, and with those of His Majesty's Government, which can not be separated from each other. Such a body, constituted in virtue of an Act of Parliament of the United Kingdom, to whom they would have afterwards to make a report of their labours, would, whilst it could be no disparagement to the supreme authority of the Empire, be in unison with numerous examples in the free institutions of this Continent, with respect to which it has often been declared that England desired to leave nothing to be wished for by the Inhabitants of these Colonies.

A General Assembly of that kind, would prove to be a faithful interpreter of all the interests of the Colony taken collectively, including those which it was the intention to be caused to be represented by the Legislative Council, and those which that body claim to represent. Those interests would in effect possess therein all their weight and all their legitimate influence. Unless indeed it be maintained, that whilst the Executive Branch of the Colonial Government, established by His Majesty in the persons of His Governors, represents the interests of the Metropolitan State, there ought to be also another constituted Branch out of the Country, and compounded of elements without any affinity with the variegated states of being of those who inhabit it.

However that may be, in the event of Your Honorable House not considering it at the moment expedient to solicit such a measure, Your Committee, having shewn the result of their deliberations, will not take upon themselves to determine whether the entire abolition of the present Legislative Council of this Province, and the assimilation of its government to that of several of the adjacent Colonies, would tend to cause peace and harmony to be re-established in the conduct of affairs. The people of the Country, if they had an opportunity of being legally constituted for that purpose, would be the best judges to decide this weighty question. Your Committee have therefore proceeded upon the supposition that an intermediate Legislative Branch, may, in certain cases, produce more maturity in the deliberation and examination of Bills, than if only one body were called upon to assent to them; at the same time, circumstances of rare occurrence might happen in which the popular representation, might, for the moment, contravene the interests of the body of their constituents, and that those interests might be cherished in the second Branch, and guarded, until the wishes of the people were more fully expressed, either by more decided representations or by the means of new Elections.

The second Branch, as actually in existence, in no way connected, in the majority of its Members, with the superior and permanent interests of the Country, is not adapted to fulfil that end: and, even, putting the case, of which as yet there has been no example, that a Provincial Administration were to send to it a majority of men of opposite principles, the following Administration, or perhaps the same, might very soon hasten to recompose the body in such a way as to ensure its approbation of their measures.

The habits, the climate, the newness of the Country, the changeability of fortunes, the division of estates, and the laws which facilitate it, are obstacles to the existence of a permanent aristocracy, so that an hereditary Legislative Body, with the powers of the House of Lords, would be simply an impossibility in Canada. Landed property being here almost wholly owned in small lots, by the mass of the people, it would be impossible to make a choice so as to form a permanent Legislative Council, even supposing it to be a numerous one, of men who
in