

Government, we hold the right of so offering our petitions to the Throne, as one of those inestimable liberties which we most humbly hope will never be abridged.

Reply of the Lieutenant Governor.

Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

I will transmit to his Majesty, your address against the principle of withholding the King's bounty of lands from the officers of militia who were members of the Convention of 1818—a principle which has been entirely approved of, by his Majesty's Government. I feel it due to myself and to the House of Assembly, to state explicitly, that, as a long interval has since elapsed, I shall deem it necessary, at the same time, to assure his Majesty, that I fully concur with the House of Assembly, that many who were conspicuous during the late war, for their firm attachment to his Majesty, and for their zeal and loyalty in the defence of this province, were connected with the Convention; and that I have, in common with the House of Assembly of that period, expressed my deep regret that they were so connected: That I am equally convinced, that many individuals, whatever may have been their previous character or conduct, who were for a time so far imposed upon as to become

promoters of the Convention, did not entertain designs hostile to the constitution, or to the peace of the country: That I have shewn my readiness to discriminate, whenever, upon the application of the party, satisfactory circumstances have enabled me to do so; and that I have not felt that I could properly go beyond this, without disregarding what was due to the best interests of society, and to the sense of the Legislature, strongly and expressly declared, at that period.

I shall, at the same time, solicit the attention of his Majesty to the resolutions of the House of Assembly, and the act of the Legislature, passed when the occurrences to which they refer, were recent, and when the proceedings of the Convention of delegates, and their consequences, could be most correctly appreciated.

I shall also feel it my duty to make his Majesty aware, that there is so little room for an implication, that the acknowledged right of the people to petition for redress of grievances, has been ever interfered with, or attempted to be controlled, that a recommendation to leave it free and unrestrained, in any measure which it might be deemed proper to enact, was given from the Throne, and carefully observed by the Legislature.

RECAPITULATION AND CONCLUSION.

With these last documents exhibited, we have now a complete case for judgment; and an important one it is—not for me only, but for all: for the maintenance of truth, the rights of man, and the duties.

At a meeting of inhabitants of Niagara township—a member of Parliament in the chair—it is resolved to follow my advice, and send to England a petition.

Nothing can be more orderly than the course pursued; nevertheless, a Legislative Councillor addresses the public, to generate groundless suspicions, cause false alarms, and countenance absurd doctrines. The good sense of the people speedily sets this aside, and measures are proceeded with.

Delegates from all the townships of the district meet, transact business, agree to resolutions, and appoint a committee of management.

The committee causes a pamphlet to be published. I am arrested for this, to be tried; and delegates meet in Convention, when I advise delay till after my trial;—till after Parliament meets, and till the people are better informed.

I am tried, and honorably acquitted: the legality of all established; and at a public dinner there is rejoicing, and confident expectation, that all will now proceed peaceably and well.

Parliament being met, the Lieutenant Governor points to sedition, which no where exists; and proposes a law to circumscribe public liberty. The Legislative Council is wary in reply; but representatives of the people become ready tools of oppression, and smitten with "indignation," draw a bill of indictment against their constituents.

A deputation from the Convention begs to be heard, on the part of the people; but courtesy is disregarded: and three gentlemen—Magistrates,

and distinguished for loyalty—are spurned from the presence of the Governor.

Finally, an act is passed, at once libelling the people and depriving them of means to appeal to the sovereign power,—an act so shameful, that the same Parliament repealed it, March 7, 1820, as "inexpedient." In fact, by that time it had accomplished its end. I was banished, and worse than murdered, under its deadly shade.

The resolutions, preparatory to this villainous act, are too loathsome to be dwelt on; but it is well to expose the lying pretence, that the Imperial Parliament had, "to meet similar occasions," resorted to "some such legislation." The Imperial Parliament never did any thing so base, although the Irish Parliament did; and soon after sold its own existence, through the agency of a man who put a period to his own.

The act was unconstitutional, as all acts are, which mock common sense, and counteract the grand principles of liberty. It would have justified rebellion; which never can be justified, so long as the people are permitted to meet peaceably, by delegate, for the expression of opinion, and carrying out lawful objects.

The repeal of this act, left the people of Canada without excuse, in taking up arms against the Government: and asking for a Convention, as McKenzie did, when Sir Francis B. Head sent him a flag of truce, was among the silly doings of his low and blackguard outbreak. The people had then a right to meet in Convention, unasked for; but, unfortunately, they had no leader—no one to guide them in wisdom's ways—"in paths of peace."

The Home Government does not prevent Chartists from meeting, by delegate, in Convention. Even their mob meetings are not checked, when peaceable. The mob meeting, at Thorold, three years ago—called a "DURHAM MEETING"—was

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