

of persons who become their dependents for the sake of personal gain, and of others who from age or habit cling to opinions which are not partaken by any numerous class; while the second party overspreads all America. We are, then, certain that we shall not be misunderstood with regard to the independence which it is our wish to see given to the Legislative Council, when we say, that His Majesty's Secretary of State is mistaken if he believes that the exclusion of a few salaried officers would suffice to make that body harmonize with the wants, wishes and opinions of the People, as long as the Colonial Governors retain the power of preserving in it a majority of Members rendered servile by their antipathy to every liberal idea.

This House and the people whom it represents do not wish or intend to convey any threat; but relying as they do on the principles of Law and Justice, they are and ought to be politically strong enough not to be exposed to receive insult from any man whomsoever, or bound to suffer it in silence. This House, then, cannot refrain from stating, that the style of the Despatches from the Colonial Secretary as communicated to the House during the present Session is insulting and inconsiderate to such a degree that no legally constituted body although its functions were infinitely subordinate to those of legislation, could or ought to tolerate them;—that no similar example can be found even the Despatches of those of his predecessors in office most favorable to the rights of the Colonies;—that the tenor of the said Despatches is incompatible with the rights and privileges of this House, which ought not to be called in question or defined by any functionary however exalted, but which ought, as occasion may require, to be successively promulgated and enforced by this House. This is a subject so familiar to Your Honorable House, and so closely connected with its own rights and privileges that Your Honorable House cannot but regret with us, that His Majesty should have been, as it appears by one of the said Despatches that he has been, advised to interfere in a case of this nature. In the instance here referred to, we exercised a privilege solemnly established by Your Honorable House, before the principle upon which it is founded became the Law of the Land; and this privilege which we have asserted in our Resolutions of the fifteenth of February, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-one, is necessary to the independence of the House and to the freedom of its votes and proceedings. We believe the said Resolutions to be constitutional and well founded, and supported by the example of Your Honorable House. We have repeatedly passed Bills for giving effect to the said principle, but they have failed to become Law, at first from the obstacles opposed to them in another branch of the Provincial Legislature, and subsequently by reason of the reservation of the last of these Bills for the signification of His Majesty's pleasure in England, whence it had not been sent back. We think that the refusal of His Excellency, the present Governor in Chief of this Province, to sign a Writ for the Election of a Knight Representative for the County of Montreal, in the place of Dominique Mondelet, Esquire, whose seat had been declared vacant, is a grievance of which this House is entitled to obtain the redress, and one which would alone have sufficed to put an end to all intercourse between it and the present Colonial Executive, if the circumstances of the country had not offered an infinite number of other abuses and grievances against which it is urgently necessary that we should remonstrate.

With regard to the following expressions in one of the Despatches beforementioned—  
 “should events unhappily force upon Parliament the exercise of its supreme authority to  
 “compose the internal dissension of the Colonies, it would be my object and my duty as a  
 “servant of the Crown, to submit to parliament such modifications of the Charter of the  
 “Canadas as should tend, not to the introduction of institutions inconsistent with  
 “Monarchical Government, but to maintaining and strengthening the connection with  
 “Mother Country, by a close adherence to the spirit of the British Constitution, and by  
 “preserving in their proper place, and within their due limits, the mutual rights and privi-  
 “leges of all classes of His Majesty's subjects;”—if they are to be understood as con-  
 “taining a threat to introduce into the Constitution any other modifications than such as  
 “are asked for by the majority of the people of this Province, whose sentiments cannot be  
 “legitimately expressed by any other authority than its Representatives,—this House would  
 “esteem itself wanting in candour to the people of England, if it hesitated to call their  
 “attention to the fact, that in less than twenty years the population of the United States of  
 “America will be as great or greater than that of Great Britain, and that of British America  
 “will be as great or greater than that of the former English Colonies, when the latter deemed  
 “that the time was come to decide that the inappreciable advantage of governing themselves,  
 “instead of being governed, ought to engage them to repudiate a system of Colonial govern-  
 “ment which was, generally speaking, much better than that of British America now is.

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