

TO THE RIGHT HON. E. G. STANLEY,
His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Montreal, March, 1834.

Sir,

The present crisis in the political affairs of Lower Canada is confessedly pregnant with consequences vitally important both to the colony and to the empire.

The contending parties, which, if they agree in nothing else, have at least agreed to hail his Majesty and the Imperial Parliament as the arbiters of their disputes, are respectively composed, to speak generally, of the French Canadians and the inhabitants of British origin. But this division, like most general divisions, is liable to exceptions. A few Britons are to be found in the Canadian ranks; and many of the most respectable Canadians, particularly of late years, have joined the Britons. Thus far will every one admit that the division is nominally correct; but the actual composition of the parties, when closely examined, will be discovered to be very different, and to turn the scale as well of numbers as of intelligence in favour of the apparent minority. We may consider the majority of the Assembly—an expression, which, unfortunately for this province, has a definite and permanent signification—as the symbol of the one party, and the minority of that body and the great majority of the Legislative Council as the symbols of the other. But as minorities cannot have a collective opinion, let us take the Assembly and the council as the symbols of the respective parties. The former demands a radical change in the provincial constitution; and the latter deprecates every change in it, not dictated by practical necessity.

That the latter speaks the sentiments of

the Britons is a fact, that has neither been denied nor doubted; but that the former expresses the wishes of the Canadians is an assertion at variance as well with existing documents, as with the general character of that loyal and primitive people. Seven years, Sir, have scarcely elapsed, since eighty-seven thousand petitioners, comprehending perhaps every male adult of French origin in the province, solemnly avowed their inviolable attachment to the provincial constitution in all its parts; and though the Speaker of the Assembly has since assumed to himself the credit of political hypocrisy in his share of the solemn avowal, his unblushing baseness has not yet found a mirror in the breasts of his virtuous and religious compatriots. There is not the slightest proof that the constituencies, which returned the revolutionary members of assembly, participate in the novel opinions of their representatives; and it would be truly a reversal of the fashionable system of pledges to make the will of the electors in all respects subservient to the will of the delegates. When the provincial assembly, which, if not dissolved, must soon die a natural death, was chosen by the suffrages of the people, the proposed changes in the provincial constitution, having been neither divulged nor meditated, could not have been anticipated by the unsuspecting constituents of the framers of the ninety-two resolutions. But the evidence is not merely of a negative character. Many respectable individuals and bodies that had previously supported the measures