

S P E E C H

OF THE

HONBLE. LOUIS JOSEPH PAPINEAU,

at the MEETING of the COUNTY of MONTREAL, held at St. LAURENT, on the 15th of May, 1837, to take into consideration the atrocious attack of the British Ministry on the Rights and Liberties of the People of Lower Canada and adjoining Colonies.

LOW-CITIZENS:

We have assembled, under circumstances which, however painful, afford advantage of enabling you to distinguish your true, from your pretended, friends; those who are with you for an end, from those who are always with you.

We are at war with the old enemies of the country—the Governor, the Councils, the Judges, the majority of the other public functionaries, their instruments and tools, whom your Representatives have, long since denounced as forming a corrupt faction, inimical to the rights of the People, and prompted by avarice alone to support a vicious system of Government. This is not alarm.

That faction, when left to itself, is powerless. It has the same disposition which it always had to injure, but it is no longer the means. It is always a mischievous beast, inclined to roar and to tear, but it can only roar, because you have clipped its claws and its fangs. (Cheers.) Times have changed with them: judge how they are changed. Some years ago, your old Representative,* whom you have just chosen to preside at this Meeting, always faithful to your interests, served you in a lamentable manner. In 1810, when, shortly after I entered into public life, a bad error cast the Representatives of the

people into jail. Your Representatives have since driven away bad Governors. Formerly, the tyrant CRAIG was obliged to appear more wicked than he was, in order to strike terror, and to govern, and to shelter base courtiers, his accomplices, from the complaints of the Assembly. He failed to frighten. The people laughed at him, and at Royal Proclamations, at Pastoral Letters, and sermons out of place, extorted by surprise, and fulminated to frighten. To-day, in order to govern, in order to shelter base courtiers, his accomplices, from the punishment which the House of Assembly justly inflicted on them, the Governor is obliged to assume a lachrymose appearance, for the purpose of exciting pity, and to pretend to be better than he really is. He appears humble and friendly, in order to deceive. Honey on his lips, and gall in his heart, he has done more mischief by his artifices, than his predecessors by their violence. Yet the mischief is not consummated, though his artifices are exhausted. The publication of his instructions, which he had mutilated and misinterpreted; the publication of Reports, in which it is admitted that this trickery was necessary for him, in order that he might commence his administration with some chance of success, have removed the mask. He can buy a few traitors, but he cannot deceive patriots; and as the number of knaves for sale, and ready to be knocked down at auction,

Louis Roy Portelance, Esquire,
Organ of the Meeting.