

pressed 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 atten-

tion 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 no little room for an implication, that the acknowledged right of the people to petition for a 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, aye, 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 ex-

pectation, 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

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