

These councils must be assembled once at least every twelve months; and the Houses of Assembly continue four years, at most, but are subject to be dissolved before the termination of the full period.”\*

Such was the form of government bestowed upon Upper and Lower Canada, both of them conquered Colonies—both of them, at the time of their political enfranchisement, vastly inferior in wealth, intelligence, and importance to any of these Colonies which we still obstinately exclude from a participation of the rights of freedom. How is it possible to justify, or rather to exculpate such illiberal policy? Is there no statesman now among us, who will avow and advocate those enlightened principles which were supported by the united eloquence and patriotism of Pitt, and Fox, and Burke? Shall we say that these statesmen were fools or knaves for extending to British subjects, resident in the British dominions, the privileges of a free constitution? We fear that this will be the only alternative left in our defence, if we still repudiate the example which they have given in the treatment of Canada, and wilfully reject the consideration of claims infinitely stronger than those which were entertained and admitted by the most illustrious statesmen who ever guided the affairs of Britain.

In concluding these remarks, the length of which can only be justified by the importance of the subject, may we be allowed to express a hope, that some independent and patriotic Member of Parliament—one who does not selfishly narrow his wishes to the votes

\* Edinburgh Encyclopædia, Art. Canada, p. 327.