

Province. The
seen insult after
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legislative Assem-
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nately, in a calmer, though perhaps not less
determined manner.

Be not deceived, My Lord, into the belief
that the feeling expressed in the petitions
presented to Your Lordship against the Re-
bel Indemnity Bill has died away. It is true
that the *Official Gazette* proclaims the daily
advent of Addresses to Your Lordship, the
apparently numerous signatures to which I
will not now stop to analyse, but many of
which any loyalist in the Province could
sign with a clear conscience. If Your Lord-
ship, however, has paid any attention to the
subject matter of the Addresses presented,
you will have perceived that, (with scarcely
an exception, and those generally from places
which were the very centres of disaffection
in 1837 and 1838,) no address ventures to
mention, in terms of approbation, the “mea-
sure of indemnity.” This fact, my Lord, is
very significant as to the feeling of the country.

We offer no objection to the amnesty pas-
sed in favour of all those concerned in the Re-
bellion; but to *pardon* is one thing—to *pay*
another. We may surely demand, in the words
used by George Canning thirty years ago—
“If the Legislature has consented to bury in
darkness the crimes of Rebellion, is it too
much that Rebels, after *eleven* years, should
forgive the crime of being forgiven?”

My Lord, my purpose in this letter has
been principally to prove to Your Lordship,
from incontrovertible evidence, that your
Ministry *did intend to pay Rebels*. Whether
they will *now* do so or not is a more difficult
question to determine. It may be that, like
the Scholar of Cornelius Agrippa, they
shrink aghast from the spirit they have con-
jured up; it may be that they will for a time
band before the storm that now assails them.
But, my Lord, *littera scripta manet*—
the intention, boldly and openly expres-
sed, is still on record; and should circum-
stances permit, who can doubt that they will
carry into operation these avowed views and
intentions? Besides, their repentance would

now be too late; the mischief is done. The
Bill is now the law of the land, and until
disallowed by Her Majesty, or amended by a
succeeding Parliament, whatever Commis-
sioners may be appointed to carry it out,
dare not, at their peril, refuse the claims of
those who, although they abetted the Rebel-
lion, were fortunate enough to escape convic-
tion or transportation.

And now, my Lord, let me once more
earnestly crave Your Lordship's dispassion-
ate attention to the arguments I have advan-
ced, and the evidence I have adduced in their
support. They are submitted in no petty
party spirit, but with the sincere desire to
set this matter in its proper light before
Your Lordship and the country. It is with
sorrow that I find Your Lordship entangled
in the toils of party, and placed by injudi-
cious counsel in a false position, which can
scarcely be either maintained with justice or
abandoned without dishonour.

I beseech you, my Lord, think for yourself
—allow no man to *think for you*, nor blindly
believe any assertions, unsupported by evi-
dence. Examine the Rebellion Losses Bill, in
connection with the declarations made by
Your Lordship's Ministry and their suppor-
ters, and then, my Lord, determine whether
it be a measure which comes within the scope
of the instructions given, in 1841, by the
present Premier of Great Britain, Lord John
Russell, to the then Governor General of
these Provinces:—

“We have only to consider the means of
binding Canada more firmly to this country
—of developing her resources—of strength-
ening her *BRITISH* population—of defending
her territory—and of *supporting and en-
couraging the loyal spirit of her people*.”

I have the honour to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient,

Humble servant,

A CANADIAN LOYALIST.

Montreal, 4th June, 1849.