

as what I firmly believe they will do. I have not a doubt that much good would result from a retaliatory act of the Imperial Parliament forbidding the Governor to permit the House to proceed to any business, of any sort whatever, and directing him to prorogue, or dissolve them, as he may see occasion, whenever they attempt to proceed to any vote, or any other motion, except that of rescinding their resolve, and expunging it from their Journals, It would be done without a moment's hesitation, It would teach them caution in future, and it would make them view their situation in a different light from what they do now.

This correction proceeding from Parliament would certainly be the most effectual; If however from reasons which are beyond my competency in judging, it should not be thought advisable to move such a measure in the Imperial Parliament, It might perhaps be nearly as effectual, if I were authorized to recommend it in His Majesty's Name, should His Majesty in His wisdom permit me so to do, In this case I presume the message to be delivered would be prescribed to me, otherwise, I should express His Majesty's confident hope & expectation that they would see the expediency of proceeding immediately, and in the first step to a measure required of them, upon every principle of Justice to the people, & of deference to the Imperial Parliament, and in the event of their attempting to enter on any other business whatever, or even admit of a motion other than what might be necessary for the purpose of carrying His Majesty's recommendations into effect, I would immediately prorogue them, and should they show the same spirit of resistance a second time, which is not to be expected, I would dissolve them again. Should I adopt this course as of myself, under His Majesty's instruction tho' without His name, I fear it would produce infinite confusion and an endless controversy; they would certainly resist it in the first instance, how far they would carry their resistance it is impossible to say—but tho' they might comply at last and probably would, they would accompany that compliance with resolutions and proceedings that would only tend to keep us at variance, and to impede all public business; and after all, the effect upon them, and upon the people, would fall infinitely short of what might be expected in either of the other ways to which I have alluded.

In adverting to the little means of influence that the Governor possesses, I am at a total loss how to propose any (except in the obvious instance to which I shall shortly allude) by which it may be increased. The Militia furnishes little or none,<sup>1</sup> the great body of the officers, that is those of the Country Companies, is composed of Habituants, but a Shade removed above the others in intelligence, tho' they are chosen from the most respectable among them. They are generally speaking the first to whom the Agents of the Party address themselves, and they are represented to me as among the most disaffected of the Province, as Credulous as their Comrades they listen to, and believe what is told them, while under the same infatuation of mistrust of every body of an Order higher than themselves, there are no means of disabusing them; I am certain if I were to dismiss every officer against whom information has been given me, I should change one third of the Militia of the Province.

Unfortunately My Lord, the great source of not only the most extensive but also of the most powerful and useful influence is in the hands of an individual who is himself as I am assured, (and that from no bad authority) at this moment a Suffragan of an Archbishop's See in France; I have already adverted to the power exercised by the Bishop in the appointment and removal at his pleasure of the Clergy of this province.

Upon careful enquiry into the subject, I find that previous to the conquest, the Bishop did exercise the right of appointment, In 1667 a Royal Edict gave the right of patronage to the Seigneurs or founders of the Church, but a subsequent Edict

1. See the opinion of Sir Robert Milnes on this question, page 250.