

tricts of this Province which have now been laid before the Imperial Parliament, under the pretence that they express the sentiments of 87,000 inhabitants of this country ; But though it is now well known by what artifices and frauds the ignorant and uninformed peasantry of the Province were cheated into an apparent acquiescence in these complaints, and though the whole mass of misrepresentation by which they were deluded, is likely to meet a fate which its fabricators little expected, from the tribunal before which they have gone, it is still desirable that the friends of Government should know by particular proofs, so far as the vague nature of the allegations will admit of proof, how totally destitute the accusations against it are, not only of reasonable foundation, but of any semblance of truth in point of fact : It is desirable that those who have honorably supported the cause of Government, rather from a general but liberal confidence in it, and from a conviction of the factious designs of those who opposed its measures, than from any intimate knowledge of the grounds and reasons of those measures, should have the satisfaction of knowing that such sufficient grounds and reasons were not wanting ; that their confidence has not been misplaced ; and that the injustice done to Government by the charges with which these Petitions are filled, is even greater than they had themselves supposed.

In going through these accusations, a marked difference is to be observed between the petition sent from the District of Quebec, and that framed at Montreal, and adopted in the District of Three Rivers : The former assails the general conduct of the administration of the Province, during the last thirty years, and deals out its charges and insidious insinuations with an affected moderation of language : The Montreal Petition, going more boldly and directly to the main object of the factious party by whom it was composed and supported, sets out with direct accusations against the present Head of the Government, the passion and virulence of which are only exceeded by their falsehood ; These charges might be treated as in every sentence and assertion utterly absurd and unfounded, and be passed over in contempt as unworthy of other reply, than that the King's Representative has had the approval of those to whom alone he is responsible ; But, that no part of this document may pass without its due notice, the several clauses shall be taken in order, and a distinct and concise answer given on such points as are susceptible of it, or a general and broad denegation to its vague and undefined assertions :