

Enclosure 2, m
No. 1.

Lieut.-Governor's
Speech on closing
the Session.

view to obtain signatures, having been returned to the Government Office, I had ample opportunities of becoming acquainted with the fact that there existed an intention to embarrass the government by withholding the supplies, and that even the terms had been prescribed to the people of the province in which they were expected to address their representatives for that object.

Now it will scarcely be credited that while I was thus assailed, while placards declared that the constitution was in danger, merely because I had maintained that the Lieutenant-Governor, and not his Executive Council, was responsible for his conduct, there existed in the Grievance Report the following explanation of the relative duties of the Lieutenant-Governor and of his Executive Council.

"It appears," say the Grievance Committee, "that it is the duty of the Lieutenant-Governor to take the opinion of the Executive Council only in such cases as he shall be required to do so by his instructions from the Imperial Government, and in such other cases as he may think fit. It appears by the following transactions that the Lieutenant-Governors only communicate to the Council so much of the private despatches they receive from the Colonial Office as they may think fit, unless in cases where they are otherwise specially instructed."

Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

Having at your request transmitted to you the correspondence which passed between my late Executive Council and myself, and having reminded you that there existed "a constitutional tribunal competent to award its decision, and that to that tribunal I was ever ready most respectfully to bow," it is with surprise I learn that you have deemed it necessary to stop the supplies.

In the history of Upper Canada this measure has, I believe, never before been resorted to; and as I was the bearer of His Majesty's especial instructions to examine and, wherever necessary, to correct the "grievances" detailed in your report of last Session, I own I did not expect to receive this embarrassment from your House.

The effect of your deliberate decision will be severely felt by all people in the public offices, by the cessation of improvement in your roads, by the delay of compensation to sufferers in the late war, and by the check of emigration.

In the complaints you have made to His Majesty against me (in which you declare that my "ear is credulous," my "mind poisoned," my "feelings bitter," that I am "despotic," "tyrannical," "unjust," "deceitful," that my conduct has been "derogatory to the honour of the King," and "demoralizing to the community," and that I have treated the people of this province as being "little better than a country of rogues and fools"), you have availed yourselves of a high legislative privilege entrusted to you by your constituents, to the exercise of which I have consequently no constitutional objection to urge, but for the honour of this province in which I, though unconnected with the country, am as deeply interested as its inhabitants, I cannot but regret that while I was receiving from all directions the most loyal addresses, you, in your legislative capacity, should have characterized His Majesty's Government, which has lately acted towards Upper Canada so nobly and disinterestedly, by the expression of "Downing-street Law."

Honourable Gentlemen, and Gentlemen:

Having now concluded an outline of the principal events which have occurred during the present Session, I confess that I feel disappointed in having totally failed in the beneficent object of my mission.

I had made up my mind to stand against the enemies of reform, but I have unexpectedly been disconcerted by its professed friends. No liberal mind can deny that I have been unnecessarily embarrassed; no one can deny that I have been unjustly accused; no one can deny that I have evinced an anxiety to remedy all real grievances, that I have protected the constitution of the province, and that by refusing to surrender at discretion the patronage of the Crown to irresponsible individuals I have conferred a service on the back-woodsman, and on every noble-minded Englishman, Irishman, Scotchman, and U. E. loyalist, who, I well know, prefer British freedom and the British Sovereign to the family domination of an irresponsible cabinet.

It now only remains for me frankly and explicitly to declare the course of policy I shall continue to adopt as long as I may remain the Lieutenant-Governor of this province, which is as follows:

I will continue to hold in my own hands, for the benefit of the people, the power and patronage of the Crown, as imparted to the Lieutenant-Governor of this province by the King's instructions; I will continue to consult my Executive Council upon all subjects on which, either by the Constitutional Act or by the King's instructions, I am ordered so to do, as well as upon all other matters in which I require their assistance. I will continue to hold myself responsible to all authorities in this country, as well as to all private individuals, for whatever acts I commit, either by advice of my Council or otherwise, and will continue calmly and readily to afford to all people every reasonable satisfaction in my power. I will use my utmost endeavours to explain to the people of this province that they want only wealth and population to become one of the finest and noblest people on the