

Despatch from
Sir F. B. Head
to Lord Glenelg.

“ F. B. Head.

“ The Lieutenant-Governor has received from His Majesty's Government a copy of a petition addressed to the House of Commons by a member of the House of Assembly of Upper Canada.

“ As the Lieutenant-Governor conceives that the said petition contains allegations which affect the liberty of the inhabitants of this Province, as well as the character and privileges of the House of Assembly, he deems it advisable that the House should be immediately acquainted with the same, and he therefore transmits a copy for their information.”

This message, with the documents which accompanied it, were referred by the House to a committee, whose detailed report, with the resolutions of the House, amply and specifically refute all the accusations brought by Mr. Hume before the House of Commons, before Lord Melbourne, and before your Lordship; nevertheless I feel it proper that I should myself reply to those charges which directly assail my own character.

Dr. Duncombe's petition, as presented to the House of Commons by Mr. Hume, commences by asserting that he has been *deputed to England* by the Reformers of Upper Canada.

It is my duty to inform your Lordship, that this assertion is totally and wilfully devoid of truth.

Dr. Duncombe's departure from Upper Canada for England was known only to a very few individuals, who, for reasons which shall hereafter be explained, kept it such a profound secret that Dr. Duncombe's own family were, I am credibly informed, in ignorance of what had become of him.

He embarked at New York under a false name, by which he was addressed during the whole of his passage; and such secrecy was preserved, that not even his own constituents were aware that their representative had left America, to utter complaints in their name to the British House of Commons, until the arrival of English newspapers astonished the Province of Upper Canada, by divulging the petition which Mr. Hume had presented for him.

On Dr. Duncombe's return to Upper Canada, and on his appearing before the committee whose duty it was to investigate his petition, he did not venture to attempt to prove, or even to assert, that he had been deputed to England by the Reformers, or by any one; neither by documents nor by witnesses did he attempt to substantiate a single one of his allegations; and though he assumed his seat in the House of Assembly, never once did he open his lips on the subject, but in a few days ignominiously shrunk from the investigation. The committee, however, not satisfied with this negative proof of his guilt, summoned before them and examined the leading Radical members of the late as well as of the present House of Assembly; for instance, they examined—

1. The Speaker of the late House of Assembly, Marshall Spring Bidwell, Esq., who scarcely a month ago, when called upon by your Lordship to avow in this country the allegations contained in his letter concerning me to your Lordship, declined to do so.

2. Dr. Baldwin, president of the Constitutional Reform Society, chairman of the Toronto Political Union, the father of Mr. Robert Baldwin (one of the members of my late Executive Council, who was lately in England with Dr. Duncombe), and lately dismissed by me from the office of Judge of the Surrogate Court.

3. Mr. Peter Perry, chairman of the committee of the late House of Assembly, which drew up the report against me concerning the Executive Council, the leader of the Radicals of the late House of Assembly, and whose name has lately been omitted by me in the commission of the peace.

The above-named, as well as all others of the same party who were examined, confessed that Dr. Duncombe had not been deputed to England by *them*, several of them admitting that they had not even known of his departure till they saw it announced in the British newspapers; and though the committee were engaged in the investigation more than two months, not a single individual in the whole Province of Upper Canada ventured to come before them, before me, or before either House of the Provincial Legislature, to assert directly or indirectly that Dr. Duncombe had been deputed to England by him, or by any portion of the party self-named Reformers.

I must