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in the two last Parliaments there have been 12, in the present there are ten, some of these have of late come from a pretty low step in the scale of society, but in general they are composed of two, or three Avocats, about the same number of Gentlemen possessing Landed property, and the remainder of Merchants of Character & estimation; Upon the first establishment of the House, the few Canadian Gentlemen that existed in the Country stepped forward, and some were elected, but they soon found that nothing was to be gained by it, on the contrary, that their absence from home and their attendance at Quebec, during three months of the year, was given at an expence that very few of them could afford, and they gradually withdrew: now that some of them have attempted to resume the stations they abandoned, they have found it impossible; but at all times, their numbers were inconsiderable: the House has ever been as it is now, in great proportion as to the Canadian part, filled up with Avocats, and Notaries, shop-keepers, and with the Common Habitants, as they are called, that is, the most ignorant of Labouring farmers, some of these, can neither read nor write, In the last parliament there were two who actually signed the Roll by marks, and their were five more; whose signatures were scarcely legible, and were such as to shew that to be the extent of their ability in writing.

I know not whether the excessive ignorance of these people, be not more prejudicial than even any malevolence could be with which they could be supposed to be actuated, In the latter case one might at least expect, that there would sometimes be division among them, but at present they are compleatly in the hands of the party which leads the House, Debate is out of question, they do not understand it, they openly avow that the matter has been explained to them the night before, by such & such persons, and they invariably vote accordingly; It is in this manner at their nightly meetings which are held for the purpose, that every question is previously decided, and it is impossible that these people can ever be set right, for those who judge right, never meet them out of the House, they do not associate with them; There was lately in the House a Habitant, who uniformly voted on every occasion against the prevailing party, but with this single exception, I do not believe that during the three Sessions that have been held, since I came here, there has been an instance of one of the Members of that Class voting otherwise than with the general Mass, that is, as directed: I mention this in order to point out, the Compleat subjection in which these people are held, for if they made use of their own Judgement, it is impossible, but that during so long a period, some question must have arisen, on which there must have been a difference of opinion.

In such a House of Assembly as I have described, Your Lordship will easily perceive that it is impossible that Government can possess any influence, they are certainly the most independant Assembly that exists, in any known Government in the world, for a Governor cannot obtain among them even that sort of influence that might arise from personal intercourse, I can have none with Blacksmiths, Millers & Shopkeepers, even the Avocats & Notaries, who compose so considerable a portion of the House, are generally speaking, such as I can nowhere meet, except during the actual sitting of Parliament, when I have a day of the week expressly appropriated to the receiving a large portion of them at dinner.

Of the Party who had the House, I have already had occasion to speak in a former dispatch, and have been induced to enter into the Characters of a few of them; They consist mostly of a set of unprincipled Avocats, and Notaries, totally uninformed as to the Principles of the British Constitution or parliamentary proceedings, which they profess to take for their Model, with no property of any sort, having everything to gain, and nothing to lose by any change they can bring about, only any state of Confusion into which they may throw the Province:—That these People have gradually advanced in audacity, in proportion as they have considered the power of France as more firmly established by the Successes of Bonaparte in Europe is obvious to every one, and that they are using every endeavour to pave the way for a change of