

the supreme authority of the Parliament and of the Constitution to govern arbitrarily, and who listened rather to the Governors and their advisers than to the people and their Representatives, and shielded with their protection those who consumed the Taxes rather than those who paid them. This House, then, entertains no fear of being taxed with disloyalty for having endeavored to introduce into the institutions of this Country, whither those of the neighboring States offered that was good and applicable, nor, more especially for having during many years passed a Bill (which has at last become a Law,) founded on the principle of proportioning arithmetically the number of Representatives to the population of the places represented; and if by unhappy circumstances it has been compelled to assent to amendments which violate that principle, this is an act of injustice for which its duty obliges it to seek a remedy.

While we thus pray that the principle of Election may be applied to the Legislative Council, and for the general extension of that principle, we are bound to protest against any alteration in the constitutional act of the 31st year of the reign of George the Third, chapter thirty-nine, founded on the false representations of the Legislative Council, and the interested tools of the Colonial Administration, and to the prejudice of the rights, liberties and welfare of the people of this Province. We believe, that the Legislative Council, a body which has so long been strongly abused by the people of this Province, and justly censured by the Committee of Your Honorable House, and which represents merely the opinions of a few individuals, is not an authority competent to demand such alterations:—that the said act cannot be and ought not to be altered except at such time and in such manner as may be by the People of this Province, whose sentiments this House is alone competent to represent: and that no interference on the part of the British Legislature with the Laws and Constitution of this Province, which should not be founded on the wishes of the People freely expressed either through this House or in any other Constitutional manner, could in any wise tend to settle any of the difficulties which exist in this Province, but, on the contrary, would only aggravate and prolong their continuance.

In the midst of the disorders and sufferings which the country has so long endured this House and the People had cherished the hope and professed their faith that His Majesty's Government in England did not knowingly participate in the political immorality of its Colonial Agents and Officers. It is with astonishment and grief that they have seen in the extracts from Despatches from the Colonial Department communicated to this House by the Governor in Chief, during the present Session, that one at least of the Members of His Majesty's Government entertains towards them feelings of prejudice and animosity and inclines to favor plans of oppression and revenge, ill adapted to change a system of abuses, the continuance of which would altogether discourage the People, extinguish in them the legitimate hope of happiness which, as British Subjects they entertained, and would leave them only the hard alternative of submitting to an ignominious bondage or of seeing those ties endangered which unite them to the Mother Country.

The approbation expressed by the Colonial Department of the present composition of the Legislative Council, whose acts since its pretended reform have been marked by party spirit and by invidious national distinctions and preferences, is a subject of just alarm to His Majesty's Canadian subjects in general, and more particularly to the great majority of them, who have not yielded at any time to any other class of the inhabitants of this Province in attachment to His Majesty's Government, in their love of peace and order, in respect for the laws, and in their wish to effect that union among the whole people which is so much to be desired, to the end that all may enjoy freely and equally the rights and advantages of British subjects and of the Institutions which have been guaranteed to and are dear to the country. The distinctions and preferences aforesaid, have almost constantly been used and taken advantage of by the Colonial Administrations of this Province, and the majority of the Legislative Councillors, Executive Councillors, Judges and other functionaries dependent upon them to serve their own ends; and nothing but the spirit of union among the several classes of the people and their conviction that their interests are the same, could prevent collisions incompatible with the prosperity and safety of the province.

Your Honorable House cannot fail to observe that the political world in Europe is at this moment agitated by two great parties, who in different countries appear under the several names of Serviles, Royalists, Tories and Conservatives on the one side, and of Liberals, Constitutionalists, Republicans, Whigs, Reformers, Radicals and similar appellations on the other:—that the former party is, on the American continent, without any weight or influence except what it derives from its European supporters, and from a trifling number of

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