

No. 16.
 Lord Glenelg
 to
 Sir F. B. Head,
 20th August 1836.

Enclosures.

With respect to the Objections, that the Application of this Principle would lead to the Executive Council falling into the Hands of a few Metropolitan Families, I would remark, that it seems much less likely to have that Effect than the present System, and that if it had it would be an Evil for which the People would have to blame themselves only, and therefore not one which could be attributed to the Home Government, or their Representative the Lieutenant Governor, and, above all, one the Remedy for which would be in their own Hands. The same may be said as to the rather inconsistent Objections, that it would lead to too many Changes, and that there are not Persons enough in the Province qualified to fill the Office of Executive Councillor.

But it is pretended that the People of Upper Canada are opposed to having this indirect Influence upon the Executive in the Hands of their Representatives. Premising that the real Value and Importance of the Principle itself cannot depend either upon what the People do really think upon the Subject, or what they may by Violence and Misrepresentation be persuaded to afford Reasons for supposing that they think, I proceed to remark that the Proposition appears absurd on the Face of it; it is like an Attempt to make one believe that a thirsty Man has an Objection to receive Water, or a hungry Man Food. But what is the Fact? As I have already stated, this is no new Principle, brought forward for the first Time on the present Occasion; it has been before the People more or less prominently since 1820. In 1828 or 1829 it was introduced into the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, and continued to be so, except during the Parliament of 1830, in which the Administration had a Majority, and of course when the Executive are in the Majority, is not the Time for the practical Application of the Principle. But in 1835 it was made the Subject of solemn Appeal to the Home Government, in an Address to the King, passed by a Majority of Twenty-one Votes, in which His Majesty was informed, that until the Principle was acted upon it could not be expected that the Administration would give Satisfaction, or that there would be any real or permanent Harmony between the Government and the Representatives of the People. The Addresses presented to Sir Francis Head since the Prorogation of the last Provincial Parliament are depended upon as showing that the People are opposed to the Concession of this Principle. If such really be the Opinion of the People, it is, to say the least of it, somewhat remarkable, that no Expression of that Opinion took place after the Close of the Session of 1835, although in the very Address to which I have referred the Assembly intimated their Intention of withholding the Supplies if their Voice was not heard; that even after the Resignation of the late Executive Council a Resolution declaring it to be the Opinion of the House of Assembly, "that the Appointment of a *responsible* Executive Council, "to advise the Lieutenant Governor on the Affairs of the Province, was one "of the most happy and wise Features in the Constitution, and essential in "our Form of Government," was adopted with but Two dissenting Voices out of a House of Fifty-five Members, and that it was not until sometime afterwards that Exertions began to be made to excite even the Tory Party against the late Council, and all who thought with them. This is not the first Time that a Colonial Lieutenant Governor has had Resort to adulatory Addresses, in order to give a Colouring to his Proceedings in reporting them to the Home Government. The Ease with which such Addresses can be procured is either not known or never considered. The Addresses to Sir Peregrine Maitland in 1827 or 1828 were not less violent in their Language against the Majority of the then Assembly than have been both the Addresses and Replies on the present Occasion, and yet the General Election which followed left the Executive Government in a Minority as small, if not smaller, than in the preceding Parliament.

But should Sir Francis Head by Violence and Intimidation unhappily succeed in procuring a Majority in the next Provincial Parliament, do not suppose, my Lord, that there will be the less Necessity for the Application of this Principle. New Difficulties will daily spring up, and when once the Delusion under which the popular Mind has been acted upon has passed away, it will return with double Pertinacity, not, I fear, merely to the Principle now asked for, but to Changes of a more extensive and organic Character. Time, I am persuaded,