

Your Committee have with regret further to observe, that the High Commissioner, not content to limit himself to ungracious notice of particular acts of the Government, with respect to the public prosecutions, has, in addition, given credit and currency to charges the most ungenerous, not only against the officers of the local Government and the Legislature, but also against a large portion of the loyal people of the country generally. His Lordship has represented to Her Majesty, that "It certainly appeared too much as if the rebellion had been purposely invited by the Government, and the unfortunate men who took part in it deliberately drawn into a trap, by those who subsequently inflicted so severe a punishment on them for their error. It seemed, too, as if the dominant party made use of the occasion afforded it by the real guilt of a few desperate and imprudent men, in order to persecute or disable the whole body of their political opponents. A great number of perfectly innocent individuals were thrown into prison, and suffered in person, property and character. The whole body of reformers was subjected to suspicion, and to harrassing proceedings, instituted by Magistrates, whose political leanings were notoriously averse to them. Severe laws were passed, under colour of which, individuals very generally esteemed were punished without any form of trial."

If one who was not clothed with the official character of Lord Durham, had promulgated the paragraph here quoted, he might justly be rendered personally liable for its publication; but although his Lordship is not responsible for his official acts, as Her Majesty's High Commissioner, to the Provincial Government, and the people his observations so deeply and injuriously affect, yet a moral obligation rests upon him, as an honourable man, to declare to the world upon what grounds he has asserted that "it *appeared* too much as if the rebellion had been purposely invited by the Government, and the unfortunate men who took part in it, deliberately drawn into a trap by those who subsequently inflicted so severe a punishment on them for their error?" By what authority has his Lordship stated, that "it *seemed* too, as if the dominant party made use of the occasion afforded it by the real guilt of a few desperate and imprudent men, in order to persecute or disable the whole body of their political opponents?" From whom did his Lordship learn, and who are the injured parties referred to in his statement, that "a great number of perfectly innocent individuals were thrown into prison, and suffered in person, property and character?" Who were the Magistrates, "whose political leanings subjected the whole body of reformers to harrassing proceedings?"—And lastly, what "severe laws were passed under colour of which, individuals very generally esteemed were punished without any form of trial?" The enormities here enumerated could not have been perpetrated without the grossest fraud and tyranny on the part of the Government—the corrupt and guilty co-operation of the Legislature—and the most malignant and wicked participation of the great body of the people. And surely, however great may have been the objections of his Lordship to those different parties—and however strong his sympathy with their political opponents—yet, charged as he was with the deeply responsible and delicate office of Her Majesty's High Commissioner, the most important object of which was, if possible, to reconcile conflicting parties, and to restore peace and harmony to the country—remembering also his first promise to the people of these Provinces, that he would discharge his duty "without distinction of party, races, or politics," he surely ought most cautiously to have guarded against falling into any errors of fact, and carefully abstained from uttering sentiments calculated to inflame the public mind, and to raise up new causes for dissension, instead of allaying those that already existed.

But Lord Durham has, unfortunately, proved himself insensible to the propriety of this prudent and politic course. For the consequences of his Lordship's acts, no party in this Province is responsible—and it will be the duty, (and your Committee trust that the patriotism of the people will lead them to perform it) of all parties, to unite in averting the new dangers and difficulties they are likely to produce.

It is impossible for any one to meet charges so general as those advanced by Lord Durham, but your Committee may venture to remark, that although it is *possible* that some innocent individual may have been thrown into prison during the insurrection, and although it is also *possible* that some such persons may have been subjected to harrassing proceedings, instituted by Magistrates whose political leanings were adverse to them—such occurrences ought not to excite surprise, and assuredly ought not to be made the ground of general condemnation. It has never yet happened, your Committee believe, that a political insurrection has occurred, in the suppression of which, some innocent persons have not been subject to suspicion, and oftentimes falsely accused,—but that the Government or Magistrates availed themselves of the occasion of the insurrection in this Province, to persecute or disable the