

of the empire. Such a system of government, securing to the people inestimable blessings, would rather durably enlarge than impair the commercial relations with the parent state, in exchange for which we receive protection; and could in nowise prejudicially affect any benefits now yielded to her, except the loss, if loss it can be called, of that patronage, the partial and impolitic distribution of which has ever proved unsatisfactory and injurious to the colony.

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‘The history of all colonies shows that there has been too much inattention in the British government in the selection of governors, it being considered a matter merely of patronage with the colonial minister in Downing-street. Men, from the too long possession of lucrative power, whatever at first might be their relative stations, soon acquire a community of interests, and thus identified in the purpose of sustaining each other in office, they have, in this province, made common cause against that redress of our grievances, and that conciliation of the public mind, and that economy of the public wealth, which are equally dictated by justice and wisdom.

‘Although the members of the Executive Council seem, from their own accounts, to render no benefit to the country, receiving, however, a salary from it, yet a very different duty is imposed upon them by the 31 Geo. III. c. 31, called the Constitutional Act, from which it appears they are appointed expressly to advise his Excellency upon the affairs of the province. This they have never done satisfactorily. As far back as the first session of the tenth Provincial Parliament, the House of Assembly expressed their dissatisfaction to his Excellency, Sir John Colborne, in the most constitutional mode of doing so, at the opening of the session of the Legislature; and in the following year the same sentiments were again frankly conveyed to his Excellency, in the answer to his Speech from the Throne, by a solemn declaration, that the Executive had long and deservedly lost the confidence of the country. In the hope of their just constitutional wishes being attended to, the people patiently waited for relief; but the relaxation of their vigilance, which some remaining confidence in his Excellency unhappily produced, has only served to bring disappointment, and to afford a further opportunity for the accumulation of the abuses which pervade all our institutions.

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‘It is not this act alone of which we complain, though it may serve to illustrate our condition; but the whole system has so long continued virtually in the same hands, that it is little better than a family compact. Abuses have grown up so as to be interwoven with every thing; and these abuses are concealed, or palliated, excused, and sustained, by those who are interested to uphold them, as the means of retaining office, for their private, and not for the public good.’

In this situation of affairs, Lord Gosford and two commissioners are about to proceed to Canada, to inquire into the grievances of the Canadian people, and report thereupon. What is likely to be the result of this inquiry?