

having so acted as to call forth on his part, a *vigour beyond the law*. If my lord Dalhousie be allowed thus to interfere in the internal administration of public bodies in the province, look at the consequences. All governors may not be so upright, so virtuous, so tender and benevolent, as his lordship; suppose the bill had passed restricting the banks from dealing in foreign bills of exchange; and that, nevertheless, it came to the ears of a future governor, that one of the banks had accommodated an officer's widow with cash, for her draft on London, for her half yearly little pension, then, following the precedent laid down by lord Dalhousie, he might, instead of directing an *ex-officio* information, or other legal proceeding, to be instituted on the occasion, by which the matter might be determined according to law, issue peremptory orders for the books and accounts of the offending bank to be laid before him, and the money to be required back from the poor widow. However widely different the cases may be in motive and effect, they are parallel in principle; and there is no sounder maxim, or one more essential to be observed in politics, than *obsta principiis*. Let that be the motto of our practical politicians, and Canada will be worthy of her high destiny, as the noblest appendage of the British crown.

I had intended in this number to have also remarked upon the impediments that have been attempted to be thrown in the way of the navigation and intercourse between Upper and Lower Canada, and between Canada and the United States, in the first place by the seizing of the Durham boats at Coteau du-Lac, as mentioned in some of the papers; and secondly by the intimation from the customhouse at St. Johns that potash will be seized there, if brought in, from Lake Champlain in any but open boats. In the former case, the governor and council have exercised a legitimate authority in ordering the release of the boats, and they would do the same, in directing the admission of potash at St. Johns upon the same footing as heretofore, for there is a broad distinction between such an interference, and arrangement *pro tempore* and until the legislature can have an opportunity of remedying the evil, and that which has just been discussed. The one, is controuling the conduct of officers immediately under the crown, the executive giving instructions to its own subordinate departments; the other, is coercing the trustees of the public, the executive ordering and directing those who are alone and immediately under the legislative power. I am, however, induced to defer my observations on these singular occurrences, until I receive more full information both as to the circumstances attending them, and the legal grounds assigned for the measures adopted by the revenue officers. I am told, that an old provincial act or ordinance has been raked up, in virtue of which potash can not be brought