

country; under long existing and unredressed abuses and grievances ceases now to be a virtue in them; therefore the House of Assembly have, in pursuance of their duty to their constituents, fully entered into an investigation of important matters and in their ninety-two Resolutions they have made a full and fair exposition of the state of the Province.—These Resolutions, Gentlemen, are founded on facts and principles which are supported by abundant documentary evidence and correct political philosophy.

It is expected, should the Petition to the Home government, which is founded on these Resolutions, be favorably considered, and salutary and constitutional Reform take effect, that incalculable benefits will thus be derived therefrom, to the inhabitants of the Province; but should the evils of the present Constitution be continued, who, I ask, will answer for the growing embarrassments and discontents which will inevitably be the consequence. Does it become us who owe allegiance to His Majesty to join in perpetuating these abuses, that have and do sow discord and discontent among His Imperial subjects? Surely, Sir, we could not violate that sacred obligation by tamely looking on, but are acting in accordance with the true principles of attachment to His Majesty's Crown and dignity and laws, when we honestly make known our grievances to him and his Parliament, by our honorable Petitions.

The Members of the House are accused of being seditious and disloyal. Such accusations the House expect, from those on whom a reform of abuses must press. They, Sir, and their satellites, are the only persons that have any thing to fear from Reform. Their "craft is totally in danger." But that the connexion between Britain and Canada is endangered by the required Reform, is mere nonsense. The fact we may well consider, under existing evils, that it is endangered if Reform does not take place. I am fully persuaded there is not an individual Member who voted for the ninety-two Resolutions, who had a wish to be detached from Great Britain, nor do I believe the mother Country on her part desires a separation; if she did, these desires would be manifested. So if the people or their Representatives, had such a wish, it would show itself.

Sir, the House of Assembly claim no higher privileges, than those long enjoyed by the House of Commons in England, which the House of Assembly is said to resemble. If our powers were analogous to theirs, a majority would displace the persons in the Province, that are analogous to the Ministry in Britain. We have in the ninety-two Resolutions, impeached the Governor-in-Chief. His Councils or his Ministers, are not responsible; consequently beyond the control of the House. They can advise the Governor to acts which his own good sense and reason do not approve, and when he pays respect to the opinion of his Council, for their faults, he is responsible. Lord Aylmer is, no doubt, a very good man in social and private life; such as we should all respect and esteem. His public acts are what he is impeached for, and if the principles of the British Constitution were in full operation in this Colony, instead of the Governor-in-Chief, it would be his Ministers, his advisers, that would