

if the change should be accomplished. There will be ten expectants for every appointment that will follow—nine-tenths of these, therefore, must be disappointed, and thus discontent will be increased. The subject has indeed been under discussion in the House of Assembly, where the first mention of it has led some of its advocates, and even His Majesty's Solicitor-General among others, to express a desire for an *Elective* Council, with total disregard or forgetfulness of the obvious fact that the balance of the Constitution would at once be destroyed, when no intermediate Body would be left between the Representative of the Crown and the Representatives of the People. But it is believed that the subject has never yet created much interest in that House, although several of its Members have been named as expectants of seats in the Executive and Legislative Councils.

All these considerations lead to the conclusion that the suggested alteration should not be hastily made, even if the acts of the Council or the character and conduct of the individuals who compose it were obnoxious to objection. Whether they are so obnoxious may be easily ascertained by the Secretary of State, upon reference to the discerning individuals now in England, who have been Governors of the Colony, but have ceased to be connected with it, and these distinguished persons, when giving their testimony to the character and usefulness of the Council as now constituted, can easily state whether the Board, although ready and anxious at all times to promote the objects of the Government when they could conscientiously promote them, have ever flinched from offering their honest advice when they have been so unfortunate as to differ in opinion from the Representative of their Sovereign.

A due regard to all the circumstances which have now been mentioned, and to many others which need be enumerated, has satisfied the Council that it must be desirable to retain in this Province its ancient Constitution which hitherto has neither been inconvenient nor unsuccessful. It may easily be altered at a future day, when the Colony shall be more ripe for such a change, if the new Constitutions which have been introduced into the adjoining Colonies should, notwithstanding the inconvenience which now attends them, ultimately prove to be superior in practical effect to those for which they have been substituted; but the Council are impressed with a conviction that at present the proposed change is unnecessary, and would prove not only useless but injurious; and they feel confident that this explicit declaration of their opinion will at least be received as evidence of the honesty with which their advice is given, whether called for by His Majesty's Government or His Majesty's Representative in this Province.

If more than has already been stated were wanting to strengthen the opinion which the Council have now expressed, a full confirmation of it would be supplied by the very extraordinary measures which have recently been adopted in the House of Assembly in Lower Canada, where indulgent compliance with unreasonable claims has created a habit of yielding on one side and a habit of complaining and demanding on the other—until ultimate objects are now avowed which fill every loyal subject with regret and alarm, and the discontented have boldly declared, with revolutionary violence, that one of the most favored and happy Colonies of the most indulgent Monarch in the World must be converted into a Republic.

Having now performed the duty which has been laid upon them, the Members of the Council have only to add, with every feeling of respect, that if His Majesty's Government should not be satisfied with the view they have taken and with the reasons they have adduced in support of that view, the same feelings which have always influenced this Board will prevail. Nothing can be more foreign from their wish than to be impediments in the way of any measure which His Majesty or His Government may deem essential to the welfare of the Colony, and therefore as it has been their uniform and only desire in their present station to be instrumental, according to their ability, in promoting the honor of His Majesty and the benefit of the Province, they are ready to retire from that station whenever it may be thought their retirement will conduce more effectually than their continuance to those important objects.