

King of the province—than I had power to convert the Legislative Council into an hereditary nobility; or than I had power to decree that this *Colony* of the British Empire should henceforward be a KINGDOM.

Enclosure 2, in
No. 1.

From total inability, therefore, as well as from other reasons, I explained to my Council, in courteous language, that I could not accede to their views; and it being evidently necessary for the public service that we should separate, I felt it was for them rather than for me to retire. I received their resignations with regret; and, that I entertained no vindictive feelings, will be proved by the fact, that I immediately wrote to Lord Glenelg, begging his Lordship most earnestly not to dismiss from their offices any of these individuals on account of the embarrassment they had caused to me.

Lieut.-Governor's
Speech on closing
the Session.

On the day the Council left me I appointed in their stead four gentlemen of high character, entitled by their integrity and abilities to my implicit confidence; and with their assistance I once again determined to carry promptly into effect those remedial measures of His Majesty's Government which had been solicited by the Grievance Report.

However, a new and unexpected embarrassment was now offered to me by the House of Assembly, who, to my astonishment, not only requested to be informed of the reasons why my Executive Council had resigned, but who, I have learned, actually suspended all business until my reply was received!

As the Lieutenant-Governor of this Province is authorized by His Majesty, in case of death or resignation, to name, *pro tempore*, the individuals he may think most proper to appoint to his Council, I might constitutionally, and perhaps ought to have declined to submit to either branch of the legislature my reasons for exercising this prerogative; but actuated by the earnest desire, which I had uniformly evinced, to comply with the wishes of the House of Assembly, I transmitted to them the correspondence they desired, with a conciliatory message, which ended as follows:

"With these sentiments, I transmit to the House of Assembly the documents they have requested, feeling confident that I can give them no surer proof of my desire to preserve their privileges inviolate than by proving to them that I am equally determined to maintain the rights and prerogatives of the Crown, one of the most prominent of which is that which I have just assumed, of naming those Councillors in whom I conscientiously believe I can confide.

"For their acts I deliberately declare myself to be responsible, but they are not responsible for mine, and cannot be, because, being sworn to silence, they are deprived by this fact as well as by the constitution, of all power to defend themselves."

The House of Assembly referred the whole subject to a Committee, which, contrary to customary form, made its existence known to me by applying directly to me, instead of through the House, for other documents and informations, which I immediately forwarded, without objecting to the irregularity of the application; and the House, to my great surprise, prematurely passed its sentence upon the subject in an address, in which it declared to me its "deep regret that I had consented to accept the tender of resignation of the late Council."

The following extract from my reply to this unexpected decision will sufficiently explain the amicable desire I still entertained to afford all reasonable satisfaction.

"The whole correspondence I forward to the House of Assembly, with an earnest desire that, regardless of my opinion, the question may be fairly discussed.

"In the station I hold I form one branch out of three of the legislature; and I claim for myself freedom of thought as firmly as I wish that the other two branches should retain the same privilege.

"If I should see myself in the wrong I will at once acknowledge my error; but if I should feel it my duty to maintain my opinion, the House must know that there exists a constitutional tribunal competent to award its decision, and to that tribunal I am ever ready most respectfully to bow.

"To appeal to the people is unconstitutional as well as unwise—to appeal to their passions is wrong; but on the good sense of the House of Assembly I have ever shown a disposition to rely, and to their good sense I still confidently appeal."

Having thus thrown myself upon the integrity of the House of Assembly I might reasonably have expected that a favourable construction would have been placed upon my words and acts, and that the disposition which I had evinced to afford the most ample information, and to meet, as far as my duty would admit, the expectations and desires of the Assembly, would have been duly appreciated; the events, however, which soon after transpired, and the addresses which were presented to me in this city and from other places in the vicinity, conveyed to me the unwelcome information that efforts were being made, under the pretence of "the constitution being in danger," to mislead the public mind, and to induce a belief that I, as Lieutenant-Governor, had declared an opinion in favour of an arbitrary and irresponsible government, that I had shown an entire disregard of the sentiments and feelings of the people whom I had been sent to govern, and that, therefore, the inhabitants of this country could never be contented or prosperous under my administration. Several petitions, purporting to be addressed to the House of Assembly and apparently forwarded by members of that House to individuals in the country, with a