

## SESSIONAL PAPER No. 18

a well disciplined militia.

The Quebec Bill to be kept in force

House of Assembly how to be supported & Paid

Interested views of the People wishing for a Change of Government.

of Government Must be Strength[e]ned & not diminished. Be assured My Lord, that every Scheme calculated for the latter purpose, & however disguised, has its Source from the Partizans and Emissaries of the American States. To me personally considered, it Must be a Matter of indifference What form of Government is adopted for this Province, but I would be deficient in that Duty which I owe to the King and the British Nation, if I did not acquaint Your Lordship for His Majesty's Information, that in Order to keep this Country dependent upon Great Britain, no Change Should be Made in the Act of Parliament which regulates it. The Legislature here, has Power to alter Such parts of the French Law as may be found by Experience unadequate to the Circumstances of a Commercial Country and is possessed on the Other Hand with Authority to alter Such parts of the Criminal Law of England as are improper or inapplicable to the State of the Colony. These Alterations ought to be Made with prudence and discretion, and no doubt the Legislative Council will do it at a proper time.—It is an easy Matter to repeal the Quebec Act, but it will be a difficult Task to Substitute another in its Place.—The Saving by having a House of Assembly £12,000 p<sup>r</sup> Annum, which may be the difficiency one Year with another after the Revenues of the Province have been appropriated to Pay the Civil Establishment cannot be put in Competition with the many bad Consequences which would attend the Measure.

I am the More explicit on this Subject with your Lordship, as being upon the Spot, I know the Views and Motives of the Persons who have been active in setting forth Petitions and creating Jealousies and divisions in the Province. Some wish a form of Government, which by resembling the Republican one in the Neighbouring States, may prepare the People for an Union with them upon Some future Event; and Many wish to vent their resentment against those who have either prevented or brought to light their Abuse of the Public Money, but much of the future Welfare of the People of this Province or of its utility to Great Britain will depend upon the Arrangements which will be Made in Consequence of the Definitive Treaty, and of the Measures which the Governor will be instructed to pursue.—

I have the Honor to be with the greatest Respect and Esteem  
My Lord

Your Lordship's Most obedient  
& Most Humble Serv<sup>t</sup>

FRED: HALDIMAND

The Right Honble Lord North  
(original)