

capital laws to be changed, and that the Imperial Parliament is to tax us, until the new legislature shall have provided the means of defraying the expenses of government. Bold as it may seem, I hesitate not to deny the right in any power to change our municipal laws, or to tax us, without our consent. It is not by mere forbearance or indulgence, that the old laws of Canada are continued in full force and effect. Sound policy recommended the measure at first, or it would not have been adopted. To say at this day that the articles of capitulation can be infringed, that the terms of the treaty, by which we became British subjects can be altered, without our consent, is to speak a language little consonant to the principles of a constitution, which breathes the purest principles of liberty, whose very essence is steadfastness in the maintenance of political freedom, whose characteristic is good faith between the monarch and the subject, between the governors and the governed. As to the other assertion that the Imperial Parliament intends taxing this colony, I say it is a language subversive of the constitution of the mother country, and which no true Englishman can hear without indignation and alarm. Yes, sir, it is you know a fundamental principle of the British constitution that the subject can not be taxed without being represented, and our jealous neighbours will tell us what were the immediate consequences of attempting a similar taxation in 1775. At that period Britain could boast of the talents of a Chatham, a Burke, and a Fox, and if the measures recommended by those celebrated champions of liberty and of constitutional rights, did not meet with that approbation in the great council of the nation, which reason and policy ought alike to have dictated, posterity is not the less indebted to them for their generous efforts. Should we, when the question is submitted to Parliament, be so unfortunate as not to be supported by the same talents and generosity; should English men forget the noble efforts, and successful exertions of their ancestors in the cause of liberty and freedom; it nevertheless behooves every member of society to despise the unmanly accusations by which a few have hitherto forced the greater part into a compliance with their measures, and to raise his voice in favour of himself, his country, and those natural rights which are inherent to man.

I am, Sir, your obed't servant,

OBSERVATOR.

This letter, having been written previous to the arrival of intelligence of the failure, or rather the suspension, of that measure so obnoxious to the greater part of the inhabitants of Lower Canada, the Union of the two Provinces, some observations and expressions in it, seem rather out of date. As, however, there is no doubt but the insidious proposers of that impolitic