

changed since their adjournment. Blood had been shed at Lexington, and men, finding the inutility of Petitions and Remonstrances, were gradually coming to the conclusion that an appeal to arms was all that was left them.

On the twenty-seventh of the same month, the Congress, having been informed that there was a gentleman in town who could "give a full and just account of the state of affairs in Canada," directed him to be introduced, which was done. What was his name and what the substance of his information is not mentioned in the journal; possibly from motives of prudence. Two days afterwards another address, entitled, "To the oppressed inhabitants of Canada," brought in by a committee consisting of Messrs. Jay, Samuel Adams, and Deane, was adopted by Congress, and ordered to be translated into the French language and circulated. After referring to the former address as having been dictated by a sense of common danger, that now issued proceeds as follows:

"We most sincerely condole with you on the arrival of that day in the course of which the sun could not shine on a single freeman in all your extensive dominions. Be assured that your unmerited degradation has engaged the most unfeigned pity of your sister colonies; and we flatter ourselves you will not, by tamely bearing the yoke, suffer that pity to be supplanted by contempt.

"When lordly attempts are made to deprive men of rights bestowed by the Almighty, when avenues are cut through the most solemn compacts, for the admission of despotism, when the plighted faith of government ceases to give security to dutiful subjects, and when the insidious stratagems and manœuvres of peace become more terrible than the sanguinary operations of war, it is high time for them to assert those rights, and with honest indignation oppose the torrent of oppression rushing in upon them."

The political situation of the Canadians is thus pictured:

"By the introduction of your present form of government, or rather present form of tyranny, you and your wives and your children are made slaves. You have nothing that you can call your own, and all the fruits of your labour and your industry may be taken from you whenever an avaricious governor and a rapacious council may incline to demand them. You are liable by their edicts to be transported into foreign countries to fight battles in which you have no interest, and to spill your blood in conflicts from which neither honour nor emolument can be derived. Nay, the enjoyment of your very religion on the present system depends on a legislature in which you have no share, and over which you have no control; and your priests are exposed to expulsion, banishment and ruin, whenever their wealth and