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To his most Gracious Majesty, William the Fourth, Sovereign of
the United Kingdom of Great Britain, and Ireland, &c. &c. &c.

NEW YORK, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, }
February 23, 1835. }

SIRE,—Beyond your Majesty's dominion I am still true to native allegiance, and trust that all its benefits may yet be secured to me.

May it please your Majesty:—In the year 1817 I went from England to Upper Canada, having landed property and friends there; resolved to connect myself with that province; and, to advance its prosperity, advised sending Commissioners to England, that certain abuses might be corrected.

For this act of the purest patriotism, I was arrested, tried, and honourably acquitted. Thereafter, I hastened to this place, September 1818, anxious for accounts from my family; and believing all well, sent to England a power of Attorney for settlement of affairs, in order to attach myself more closely with ~~the~~ Canada, whither I forthwith returned; but there I was arrested, ordered to depart the province, and imprisoned eight months without benefit of bail. Finally, being called before a court of justice, August 1819, I was arraigned, tried, and banished, merely because of refusing to depart the Province, and while so weak with cruel treatment as to be unable to protest against proceedings pronounced illegal by the first law authorities of Britain.

Returned to England, I petitioned the King and Parliament for inquiry into my case during ten years, but in vain; and vain indeed it became to expect a hearing after your Majesty's ear was engaged by a man whom I knew to be false, treacherous and vindictive—a man whom I had personally chastised.

Thus hopeless, I crossed the Atlantic, 1833, to watch the progress of events; and seeing that the individual alluded to no longer influences your Majesty's Councils, I once more solicit attention.

The Provincial statute passed 9th March, 1804, under color of which I was imprisoned and banished, was enacted specially to guard Upper Canada against Irishmen who were expatriated; and could not be intended to bear down the unalienable right of unattained British subjects—that right which rests on the acknowledged principle of allegiance and protection being reciprocal, while affidavits laid before the Chief Justice could not be misunderstood.—In short, more wanton oppression never was exercised in modern times; nor ever were consequences more ruinous; seeing that thereby, not only has my reputation been sullied, but my property taken away and dissipated; seventeen years, the best of my life, rendered profitless and unhappy, while endless litigation has been set on foot for my annoyance.—

Nevertheless hope has been crushed. A continued chain of documents can be referred to; letters to the King and petitions printed in parliamentary journals, all proving that I have neither admitted of claims for redresses being forfeited, nor left untried any possible means of being heard.

Sire—From this land into which I was banished, I now protest against the monstrous cruelty and injustice; from this foreign land I appeal for the last time; and, still dutiful and submissive, respectfully put these questions: Shall I an cleave of the oldest and least tainted family of Wiltshire, whose father was for many years a magistrate of that county, and where I, myself, received from your Majesty's Royal Father, thirty-five years ago, a Captain's commission.—I, who till this hour can challenge the world to accuse me of a single mean, cowardly, or dishonourable act—I who am father of a family in Scotland; shall I be robbed, degraded and expatriated by villany? In fine, shall justice be denied to a British subject, and the most sacred constitutional right violated in his person, by men clothed in the livery of power, and assuming the sanction of royalty?

Rather than that, Sire, I shall, as did one of my name, perish for my principles at the stake. Rather than that, I shall lay down my life to extirpate from this western world, the remains of despotism.—Meantime, trusting that your Majesty will speedily cause inquiry to be made into my case; and most heartily wishing well to my native country.

I am your Majesty's loyal subject,

ROBERT F. GOURLAY.