

"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 information, 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

"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 shewn 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 view to obtain signatures, having been returned to the Government Office, I had ample opportunities of becoming acquainted with the fact that there existed an intention to embarrass the Government, by withholding the Supplies, and that even the terms had been prescribed to the people of the Province in which

they were expected to address their Representatives for that object.

Now, it will scarcely be credited that while I was thus assailed—while placards declared that *the Constitution was in danger*, merely because I had maintained, that the Lieutenant Governor, and not his Executive Council, was responsible for his conduct,—there existed in the Grievance Report the following explanation of the relative duties of the Lieutenant Governor and of his Executive Council.

"It appears," say the Grievance Committee, "that it is the duty of the Lieutenant Governor to take the opinion of the Executive Council only in such cases, as he shall be required to do so by his instructions from the Imperial Government, and in such other cases as he may think fit. It appears by the following transactions that the Lieutenant Governors only communicate to the Council so much of the private despatches they receive from the Colonial Office as they may think fit, unless in cases where they are otherwise specially instructed."

*Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:*

Having at your request transmitted to you the correspondence which passed between my late Executive Council and myself, and having reminded you that there existed a Constitutional Tribunal competent to award its decision, and that to that tribunal I was ever ready most respectfully to bow," it is with surprise I learn that you have deemed it necessary to stop the Supplies.

In the History of Upper Canada this measure has, I believe, never before been resorted to; and as I was the bearer of His Majesty's especial Instructions, to examine, and, wherever necessary, to correct the "Grievances" detailed in your report of last Session, I own I did not expect to receive this embarrassment from your House.

The effect of your deliberate decision will be severely felt by all people in the Public Offices—by the cessation of improvement in your Roads—by the delay of compensation to Sufferers in the late War—and by the check of Emigration.

In the complaints you have made to His Majesty against me, (in which you declare that my "ear is credulous"—my "mind poisoned"—my "feelings bitter"—that I am "despotic," "tyrannical," "unjust," "deceitful"—that my conduct has been "derogatory to the honor of the King," and "demoralizing to the Community," and that I have treated the people of this Province as being "little better than a Country of Rogues and Fools") you have availed yourselves of a high Legislative Privilege, entrusted to you by your Constituents, to the exercise of which I have consequently no constitutional objection to urge, but for the Honor of this Province in which I, though unconnected with the Country, am as deeply interested as its inhabitants, I cannot but regret that, while I was receiving from all directions the most loyal addresses, you, in your Legislative capacity, should have characterised His Majesty's Government which has lately acted towards Upper Canada so nobly and disinterestedly, by the expression of "Downing-street Law."

*Honorable Gentlemen: and, Gentlemen:*

Having now concluded an outline of the principal events which have occurred during the present Session, I confess that I feel disappointed in having totally failed in the beneficent object of my mission.

I had made up my mind to stand against the enemies of Reform, but I have unexpectedly been disconcerted by its professed friends. No liberal mind can deny that I have been unnecessarily embarrassed,—no one can deny that I have been unjustly accused,—no one can deny that I have evinced an anxiety to remedy all real grievances—that I have protected the Constitution of the Province—and that by refusing to surrender at discretion the patronage of the