

COPY OF A LETTER

FROM

JAMES STUART, ESQUIRE,

TO

THE RIGHT HON. LORD VISCOUNT GODERICH, &c. &c. &c.

London, 8, Dover-Street, 22d October, 1831.

MY LORD,

In a Memorial addressed to your Lordship, from Quebec, and also in a Memoir in support of my humble Petition to His Majesty, I have had the honour of bringing under your Lordship's consideration, a satisfactory, and, I apprehend, conclusive answer to the charges of the Assembly of Lower Canada, upon which, by their address to His Majesty, they have prayed for my dismissal from the office of Attorney-General for that province. Besides these charges, however, I find that various animadversions on my conduct, and misrepresentations of it, are interspersed in certain proceedings of the Assembly, transmitted hither for your Lordship's consideration, which might produce impressions injurious to my character, if not repelled and refuted. I hope, therefore, your Lordship will permit me to use this mode of pointing out these animadversions and misrepresentations, and of establishing, that my conduct, in all the particulars referred to, has been unexceptionable and proper.—In proceeding to acquit myself of this easy task, I may perhaps be allowed to observe, that the course thus pursued by the Assembly is, I believe, without precedent, and is certainly of a nature, (however unintentional it may have been on the part of the Assembly,) to operate great injustice to the Officers of His Majesty's Government, who may be the objects of such a course of proceeding, as well as extensive injury to the public service.—The House of Assembly having adopted the resolution of preferring charges against me, it would seem to have been reasonable, just, and proper, that whatever was deemed criminal or culpable, in my conduct, should have been embodied in these charges.—All the grounds of imputed offence would thus have been made known to the party inculpated;—an opportunity would have been afforded to him to defend himself, and a fit determination on them might easily have been obtained. Instead of adopting this course, which reason and justice would prescribe, the Assembly, at the same time that they prefer and convict me of certain charges, bring under the notice of His Majesty's Government, it would appear, *ex parte* proceedings, unconnected with these charges, in which are to be found animadversions, untrue allegations, and misrepresentations, injurious to my character. Hence cause for impressions to my disadvantage, and probably permanent injury, is afforded; while an opportunity for self-defence and justification, or even for explanation of any kind, is withheld. This course of proceeding, I beg leave in all humility to state, appears to me to be most unjust towards the person against whom it is adopted, as being calculated indirectly, on the false, unfounded, and malicious statements of irresponsible individuals, to injure him in credit and character, without cause, without hearing or trial, and without means of redress on his part; and to be highly injurious to His Majesty's service, as having the effect of bringing a public officer, and, through him, the Government itself, in some degree, into disparagement and discredit; thus impairing the usefulness and efficiency of both, while the gratification of private malignity, a purpose not intended by the Assembly, is alone accomplished.—Either the statements of facts contained in the proceedings now referred to, did or did not, in the opinion of the Assembly,