

important subjects which have deeply affected the feelings of the people. But we are solicitous to regard the accession of your Excellency to the government of this Province as the commencement of a new era in which your Excellency, above the prevailing influences of political dissensions, and unhappy advice, will prove our constitutional benefactor, and realize the paternal wishes of our most Gracious Sovereign to bless his people with mild, just and conciliatory principles of Government." In a second address, presented immediately after, they are more explicit. They ask him at once to assemble the Parliament: "Whilst we, the undersigned inhabitants of York and its vicinity, regret extremely that our first welcome should be embittered by complaint and prayer; and while it is far from our disposition or intention to call on your Excellency, at the moment of your arrival, to interfere in any manner, with the proceedings of the Courts of Justice, even with the most splendid prerogative of your office, the administration of judgment in mercy, yet feeling ourselves disregarded and our rights endangered by many late proceedings of the provincial administration; and amongst those proceedings as especially worthy of notice on this occasion, by the late arbitrary and unconstitutional removal of a Judge highly and justly esteemed by us; by the destruction of one independent press; by a violence almost burglarious, by clerks, relations and dependents of men in office and power; by the silencing another press by means of unconstitutional security exacted of its editor before conviction of any fault; and now by the virtual suppression of a third independent press by a most severe and disproportionate sentence passed on its editor, Francis Collins, on a libel: a sentence fraught with a measure of punishment against the temperance and moderation expressed by the jury who convicted him, and against the spirit of the expressive charter of British Rights, that great pledge of safety to the subject 'that no man shall be fined to his ruin'—we, the undersigned, pressed by such grievances, entreat that your Excellency will please, as speedily as possible, to convene the Provincial Parliament, to whom we may make our complaints; and by which course your Excellency may, through that legitimate and constitutional channel, arrive at the knowledge of the true state of the country, a thing not attainable by your Excellency through the advisers of your Excellency's misguided predecessor."

The Parliament was not instantly assembled; but about the customary time, viz., on the 8th of January (1829), it met at York. In their Address on the Speech, the Lower House seize on a recommendation contained in it to repeal a certain existing Act "for the better securing the Province against all seditious attempts or designs to disturb the tranquillity there—