

and privileges of the American emigrants to their fullest extent, immediately rallied all their forces, in-doors and out-of-doors, and assailed the conduct of the House from all directions.—They were accused of declaring that to be true which was untrue—that to be law, which was not law—and that too by the Attorney General unblushingly, as well as others in the House, although he had acknowledged himself guilty of the very inconsistency of which he was accusing the supporters of the declaratory bill, by drafting a null and void bill for the Executive, and recommending it to the House for adoption. This gentleman, in the course of the discussion, indulged in a national abuse of the Americans so gross as to disgust all who heard him. The revolutionary patriots, the companions of the immortal WASHINGTON, he uniformly named as “rebels and traitors”—The United States’ soldiers who fought in the late war, he more than once termed “murderers.”

The Kingston Chronicle, a paper in the pay and confidence of the government, was the first to unveil, and openly avow the original design of the ministerialists; in doing which, it re-echoed the very language and sentiments of the Attorney General in the Lower House, and, we hear, of the Rev. Dr. Strachan in the Upper House. A person supposed also to be in the pay of the government, and who had long been waiting the issue of the alien question, with a hope that it would leave some vacant seats in the Assembly, now enraged by disappointment, could no longer conceal his real sentiments, and those of his party, and opened one common battery of the most foul and unjustifiable slander and abuse alike against the House and all the Anglo-Americans in the colony, under the signature of *Catharus*. This writer, finding all the insidious attempts of his friends in-doors to disfranchise the American emigrants, rendered abortive by the talents, the firmness, and patriotism of the Assembly, called aloud upon the Executive, through the columns of the Kingston demi-official Chronicle, to violate the laws of the land—to violate the faith of the government—to violate the uniform practice of nearly forty years—and to turn every American out of office and out of Parliament. His words are as follows :—

“Let all alien Americans, who now hold offices under the Crown, be immediately dismissed—let none but British subjects of approved integrity be appointed to the magistracy, to the office of sheriff, coroner, &c.—At a new election, let the sheriff, or returning officer, be instructed in their writs to admit none as candidates or voters but natural born subjects, or persons legally naturalized—but if by any chance, any individual of a different description happens to be returned, let the Executive dissolve the Assembly.”

In a colony where the Speaker, nearly half the Assembly, and it is thought at least two-thirds of the people, are American emigrants, such sentiments as the above, coming from a demi-official paper, must have created considerable sensation. Mr. Fothergill, then His Majesty’s printer, and an independent member of the Assembly, called the attention of the House to these publications, which, he said, were a gross libel on the House, and were sufficient to kindle a flame of rebellion in the country, inasmuch as they came from a demi-official paper, notoriously in the pay of the government, at a critical time, when rumours were afloat that the government were about to deprive these people of their political rights—observing further, that this same paper had been libelling the House of Assembly, for the last twelve months. For these observations, Mr. F. was immediately dismissed from his situation, without a moment’s warning, by which act, the Executive seemed to give an additional sanction to the writings of *Catharus*, who became every day more daring—being aware that his slanders were sweet as honey to the ministerialists, and that the present House despised the idea of interfering with the liberty of the press.

In a few days afterwards, *Catharus* appeared again—repeated the above call upon the Executive to turn out every American, and under the type of the warnings

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