

every public authority or tending to weaken that moral force so necessary for securing that protection which we have a right to claim from them.

*Here follow the rejected reflections led into on the perusal of that part of the Speech alluded to, and reported, at the head of this article.*

What loyal subject ! what true and faithful Canadian, what man living under the British Constitution can read the Speech from the Throne on the proroguing of the Provincial Legislature without shuddering, without feelings of the deepest anguish ?

Is it then really true that Government is palsied and powerless ? Oh yes ! it must be so, or else our noble governor would not have ventured to tell it us in so solemn a manner. Where then shall we look for protection ? Are we then to see our lives exposed to the mercy of every lawless ruffian ; our liberty constantly menaced ; our property invaded ; our wives and daughters ravished ; are we in fine threatened with all the horrors of anarchy ? Forbid it Heaven ! Let us hope that the worthy Representative of our Sovereign will find in his own energy the means of preserving us from the impending evil. Let us hope that his tried and experienced wisdom will suggest the proper remedy for counteracting the political disease, and enable him to steer safely the public vessel amidst the breakers with which she is surrounded.

On reading this, many will exclaim that the picture is exaggerated and it may be so. But can any one say, that altho' not probable, things shall not reach that extremity ; that the absence of a protecting power cannot lead to that climax of social disorganization ! It is therefore the duty of every true patriot to come forward and shew his decided resolution to lend his assistance against the impending danger. Happily we live under a Constitution from which we may derive the most efficacious means of averting it.

The word Constitution is in every body's mouth, but from that which we see and hear every day, one is led to conclude that, though the name be thus generally known, the idea attached to the word itself is clearly understood by few. We may go farther and say that the true meaning of that word, has like that of many others, never as yet been clearly and intelligibly defined. During the French Revolution it was every where positively asserted that that Country had no Constitution. On the question being put how it was possible that so populous an association as the Country contained, could have subsisted so many centuries without a Constitution ? A shrug of the shoulders was