

ADDRESS OF ASSEMBLY OF UPPER CANADA RESPECTING  
ORANGE LODGES.

The Address of the House of Assembly of Upper Canada to the Lieutenant-Governor, and his Reply thereto, relative to Orange Lodges, have not been officially transmitted to the Colonial Department; but the following Proceedings thereon have been extracted from the Votes of the Assembly, Session 1836.

4th April 1836.—Pursuant to the order of the day, the address to his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor for information on the law relating to public processions was read a third time and passed, and is as follows:

To his Excellency Sir Francis Bond Head, Knight Commander of the Royal Hanoverian Guelphic Order, and of the Prussian Military Order of Merit, Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of Upper Canada, &c. &c. &c.

May it please your Excellency,

WE, His Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of Upper Canada, in Provincial Parliament assembled, respectfully request that your Excellency will be pleased to direct to be laid before this House without delay the opinions of His Majesty's Attorney and Solicitor Generals how far the laws in force in this Province are calculated, if rigidly enforced, to put down public processions likely to endanger the public peace, and whether in their opinion it is necessary to pass a law to prohibit all processions having such a tendency; and that your Excellency will be pleased to inform the House whether the Government of this Province have taken, or determined to take, any steps to prevent or discourage public processions of Orange Societies, or to discourage the formation or continuance of such societies.

Commons House of Assembly, }  
4 March 1836. } (signed) *Marshall S. Bidwell,*  
Speaker.

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On the motion of Mr. Parke, seconded by Mr. M'Intosh, ordered, That Messrs Small and Wells be a Committee to wait upon his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, to know when he will be pleased to receive the address of this House, and to present the same.

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7 April 1836.—Mr Small, from the Committee to wait upon his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor with the address of this House on the subject of Orange Processions, reported delivering the same, and that his Excellency had been pleased to make thereto the following answer:

Gentlemen,

I herewith transmit to you, according to the request of the House of Assembly, the opinion of His Majesty's Attorney and Solicitor General, on the subject of Orange Processions.

The government of this province has neither taken, nor has it determined to take, any steps to prevent or discourage the formation or continuance of such societies.

I have no hesitation, however, in saying, that I consider all factious combinations as hostile to the real interests of this country; but unless they proceed to acts of violence or intimidation, I consider that a forced remedy might prove worse than the disease itself.