

No. 1.
 Lord Glenelg
 to
 Sir F. B. Head,
 5th Dec. 1835.

occasionally arose, and Discontent was occasionally manifested; but it may be affirmed, that generally there subsisted a Spirit of amicable Co-operation between the Executive Government and the Legislature.

The Cession by His Majesty of the Revenues raised under the Statute 14 Geo. 3. c. 88. to the Appropriation of the House of Assembly was a gratuitous and unsolicited Act, and was accepted by that Body in a Spirit of grateful Cordiality.

I will not pause to recapitulate the Events which immediately preceded, if they did not produce the Interruption of this mutual good Understanding. It is sufficient for my present Object to observe that the Relations which had formerly subsisted between the Executive Government and the Representatives of the People underwent an entire Change immediately after the Elections which took place in the Autumn of 1834. The Supporters of the local Government now for the first Time found themselves in a constant Minority on every Question controverted between them and their political Antagonists. A Committee of Grievances was appointed, by which a Report was made impugning the Administration of Affairs in every Department of the Public Service, and calling for Remedial Measures of such Magnitude and Variety as apparently to embrace every conceivable Topic of Complaint. Having adopted this Report, and having directed its Publication in an unusual Form, the House transmitted through the Lieutenant Governor to the King an Address, in which some of the more considerable of the Claims of the Committee were urged in Terms of no common Emphasis. It will be your first Duty on the Assumption of the Government to convey to the House the Answer which His Majesty has been advised to return to these Representations.

I cannot proceed to explain the Terms of that Answer without the preliminary Remark with a view to which the preceding Statement has been chiefly made. Whatever may be the Justice of the Complaints now preferred respecting the general Principles on which the public Affairs of the Province have been conducted, the Representatives of the People of Upper Canada are at least not entitled to impute to the confidential Advisers of the King any Disregard of their Remonstrances. The greater Part of the Grievances detailed by the Committee and the House are now for the first Time brought by them under His Majesty's Notice. My Predecessor the Earl of Ripon, in his Despatch of the 8th of November 1832 to Sir John Colborne, was commanded by the King to state, that "there was no Class of the Canadian People, nor any Individual amongst them, to whose Petitions His Majesty did not require that the most exact and respectful Attention should be given." His Majesty has never ceased to be actuated by the Spirit which dictated those Instructions, and of course will not deny to the House of General Assembly that careful Investigation of the Grounds of their Complaints, which He graciously pledged himself to bestow on the Representation of any individual Petitioner. I feel myself therefore entitled, on behalf of His Majesty's Government, to object to any Resort on the Part of the House to that ulterior Measure to which they allude, but which they will feel with me is to be justified only by an extreme Emergency.

I now proceed to the Consideration of the various Topics embraced in the Seventh Report of the Committee of Grievances, and in the Addresses of the Two Houses to His Majesty; and I shall advert to them in the Order in which they are pursued in the Report itself.

In the following Pages, if any Subject should appear to be passed over without due Regard, you will understand that I have at least been guilty of no intentional Omission, but have, in obedience to His Majesty's Commands, made it my Endeavour to meet every Question which the Committee and the House have thought it necessary or proper to raise.

1. It is stated that "the almost unlimited Extent of the Patronage of the Crown, or rather of the Colonial Minister for the Time being, and his Advisers here, together with the Abuse of that Patronage, are the chief Sources of Colonial Discontent. Such (it is added) is the Patronage of the Colonial Office, that the granting or withholding of Supplies is of no political Importance, unless as an Indication of the Opinion of the Country concerning the Character of the Government, which is conducted on a System that admits its Officers to take and apply the Funds of the Colonists without any legislative Vote whatever." The Committee then proceed to an Enumeration of the various