

were conceived and adopted.

Nor can they withhold their sympathy for the treatment shown to their fellow-subjects of British origin in Lower Canada, a province won by British arms.

Situated as Upper Canada is, every material change in Lower Canada must affect the Upper Province also. When a Member of the House of Commons makes such a declaration as Mr. Roebuck is reported to have done, committee think it right to deny their belief of the truth of the assertion.

The high sense of national honour and friendly feelings of the American government, would prevent their lending their aid to any traitorous conspiracy. Committee trusts that whatever course may be adopted towards Lower Canada, the rights of this province will not be endangered by temporizing concession.

Impressed with the conviction that the adoption of the principles contained in the resolutions would inevitably lead to a republican government, recommend an address to His Majesty, solemnly disavowing any participation in the sentiments contained therein.

Committee advert to Mr. Papineau's letter.

The last resolution authorizes Mr. Speaker Papineau to transmit the series.

Under this authority alone, Mr. Papineau wrote his letter.

Mr. Papineau not authorized to insult the Government or Assembly of this province.

Mr. Papineau alone responsible for this violation of courtesy and decorum.

The whole tenor of this letter is such, that it would have been passed over in silent contempt, had it not been found on the Journals of the House.

The late period of the session at which it was reported, alone prevented that consideration of the letter which would have prevented the Journals from being disgraced by its appearance on them.

nor can they withhold an expression of deep sympathy for their fellow-subjects of British origin in the Lower Province, who seem in some respects to be treated, and who have been almost denounced as foreigners and intruders in a colony which was won by the enterprise and heroic courage of British warriors. Geographically situated as Upper Canada is, and governed under the same Constitution with the sister province, whatever change occurs in their form of government, or whatever remedies the Imperial Parliament may adopt for the cure of the evils now prevailing there, must, in some degree, and perhaps to an extent not now contemplated, affect us likewise. When a member of the British House of Commons, the salaried agent of the Assembly of Lower Canada, declared in his place, (as Mr. Roebuck is reported to have declared,) that in the neighbourhood of Lower Canada "there were 13,000,000 of republicans, who, as soon as the flag of rebellion should be unfurled, would rally round it, and trample in the dust the whole establishment," your committee think it right for your honourable House promptly to declare, that, in their opinion, the few traitors in either province, who would desire to hoist the standard of revolt, are so sensible of their weakness, that there is no fear of such an effort being made; and that should they be rash enough to attempt it, in the expectation of foreign support, they would look in vain for aid from the United States, whose government has been actuated by feelings of the most friendly and pacific character towards the British empire, and whose high sense of national honour would always prevent their lending their aid to a traitorous conspiracy. Whatever course may be taken with regard to the affairs of the Lower Province, your committee cannot let slip the opportunity of expressing their anxious hope, that no consideration will induce a departure from the principles contained in the Charter of 1791, and that in any remedial measures which may be adopted, the preservation of our rights as British subjects, and of our intimate connexion with the mother country, as a colony, will never be lost sight of or endangered by weak and temporizing concession.

Your committee, after this examination of these resolutions, have arrived at the conclusion, that to pursue the course which has been followed in the Lower Province, and to espouse the principles avowed and insisted on by the House of Assembly there, would be contrary to the wishes as well as the interests of Upper Canada, would shake our system of government to its centre, and would rapidly and inevitably tend to establish a republican form of government among us. Impressed with this conviction, your committee feel it their duty to submit to your honourable House the propriety of presenting an humble address to His Majesty, solemnly disavowing the sentiments contained in these resolutions, and earnestly deprecating any departure from the principles of our Constitution, or the adoption of any course of policy calculated to weaken the ties which attach this colony to the British empire.

After this review of the resolutions, to which your committee have felt it their duty to devote their best attention, there remains little for them to do, but to advert to the letter of Mr. Speaker Papineau.

By the last resolution, he was authorized to transmit copies thereof to the several assemblies of Upper Canada, and of the other sister provinces, "and to express the desire of this House cordially to co-operate with the said assemblies in all constitutional measures calculated to promote the mutual interests of these colonies."

It is under the authority of this latter clause that Mr. Papineau has assumed to write this letter, which, in addition to a lengthened commentary on the resolutions, contains some expressions to which your committee beg to draw the attention of your honourable House. In reference to one of the Imperial Statutes, imposing certain duties, Mr. Papineau remarks, "It is true that the government of Upper Canada induced a bribed or unwary Parliament to petition for the revival and continuation of those taxes." Your committee find nothing in the resolutions giving authority to Mr. Papineau to use language insulting to the government of this colony, or to a former house of assembly; nor do they believe that the House of Assembly of Lower Canada ever designed such an unwarrantable and indecent course should be followed. For this violation of decorum and of the courtesy due from one legislature to another, Mr. Papineau stands solely responsible; but your committee think it beneath the dignity of your honourable House to take further notice of so base and unfounded a calumny. The tenor of the whole letter is, in the opinion of your committee, of a purely rebellious character; and the sentiments of the writer will find nothing but execration from the inhabitants of this province. It carries its antidote in itself, and is so utterly revolting to a loyal and well-disposed mind, that while deserving of every punishment, it requires no confutation, and would have been passed over by your committee in silent contempt, without even this brief notice, if it were not to be found on the journals of your honourable House. The late period of the past session when it was laid on the table of the House, two months after the resolutions were adopted, and rather more than one month after the date of the letter, prevented the late House of Assembly from taking the subject into consideration. This delay is unaccounted for, and is to be regretted; for your committee are satisfied that had there been time for consideration, the journals of the Assembly would not have been disgraced by the letter of Mr. Speaker Papineau.

All which is respectfully submitted,

Henry Sherwood, Chairman.

Committee-room, House of Assembly,
February 22, 1837.