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York, 27th Nov., 1818.

At 3 o'clock this day, his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor proceeded in state, to the Legislative Council chamber, where the House of Assembly having been summoned to attend, his Excellency gave the Royal assent to the bills mentioned below, and closed the session with the following SPEECH :

Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly :

It does not appear that any alteration has occurred, in the state of his Majesty's indisposition.

You have afforded reasonable aid to the constitution, by your bill entitled "*An act for preventing certain meetings within this province.*" It is a subject for deep regret, that the constitution should have stood in need of such aid ; but let us hope that the good disposition of his Majesty's subjects will put an early period to this unhappy necessity.

If any portion of the people of this province be indeed aggrieved, they are well aware that a dutiful petition, proceeding from themselves, would find easy access to the foot of his Majesty's throne.

Gentlemen of the House of Assembly :

I thank you, in the name of his Majesty, for the supplies you have granted for the service of the current and of the ensuing year.

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In future, I hope to relieve you from the annual demand for the support of the Surveyor General's department.

You have added to the character of the province, by the unanimous expression of sentiments which are highly worthy of the enlightened representatives of a free and generous people. I could not refuse myself the pleasure of transmitting your resolutions, to his Majesty's Government, well convinced that they would prove grateful to the Royal personage who presides over it ; and confident that they will be received with affectionate approbation, by every description of your fellow subjects in the mother country.

Honorable Gentlemen, and Gentlemen :

There are a few objects of general importance, which, had the public mind been tranquil, I should have brought before you, early in the session. Of these I shall mention one, which appears to me to require, in a peculiar degree, your calm and deliberate consideration : I mean the providing of a remedy for the unequal pressure of the road laws. By offering, at present, this subject to your notice, I hope to benefit by the attention you will be pleased to bestow upon it, during the recess.

After which, the honorable the Speaker of the Legislative Council announced, that the Parliament was prorogued to the 2d of January next.



R O B E R T G O U R L A Y

Here was an end to enquiry into the state of the province, and here was confirmed a system of despotism, which nothing but insurrection caused to be put down.

Now that twenty-four years have elapsed since these occurrences : now that another system has been established ; and now that matters can be judged of calmly and dispassionately, it is well to review the whole, so as to determine where was truth, where falsehood and error, for the benefit of futurity.

Up to the year 1818, there had been no instance, I believe, of any thing akin to sedition being known in Lower Canada ; and the war had revealed from the upper province, every individual who was seditious. They had either gone quietly off, or openly taken up arms ; and the members of Convention were absolutely the ELITE of the most loyal part of the population.

I, ROBERT GOURLAY, who advised that Convention, now ROBERT FLEMING GOURLAY, challenge scrutiny into its every transaction : and I assert, that not one word in the above record affords evidence of sedition, but the contrary. Nevertheless, a Lieutenant-Governor no sooner arrives in the province than he (by advice, no doubt of his Council and the Colonial department,) declares war against this Convention—a Convention which had resolved, "the better to denote the purity of its object, as well as distinguish it from Conventions formed to control and command

public affairs," that it should be denominated "THE UPPER CANADIAN CONVENTION OF FRIENDS TO ENQUIRY." He refuses to see the deputation—three Magistrates—and anon, we find him justified in this most illiberal and uncourtious conduct, by assertions and insinuations of the Assembly, base in the extreme, false and malignant. On these we find an act passed, to deprive the people of their right to meet by delegation—the only mode of transacting any kind of public business, peaceably and effectually : and we find the Lieutenant Governor, in his closing speech, telling Parliament, that it has "afforded reasonable aid to the Constitution," by "An act for preventing certain meetings," and telling gentlemen of the House of Assembly, that they have "added to the character of the province, by the unanimous expression of sentiments, highly worthy of the enlightened representatives of a free and generous people." Further, expressing pleasure in transmitting their resolutions to his Majesty's Government, "well convinced, that they would prove grateful to the Royal personage" !!

Thus fortified, what does this Lieutenant Governor do ? He first puts out of the Commission of the Peace, all Magistrates throughout the province, who had been friendly to my measures, except such as chose to sign a mean recantation of their principles ; and after an order was received from home, to grant lands to militiamen, for their services in war, he