

Chap. Majesty's army, employed upon that occasion, as misrep-
 xxxiv. sentations upon that subject have been made by Denis Ben-
 1831. jamin Viger, Esq., acting as the agent of the assembly, and
 in that capacity conveying to your Majesty's government,
 as the real sentiments of your Majesty's subjects, calumni-
 ous imputations upon public officers, both civil and military,
 originating only with himself, and those individuals in the
 house of assembly, by whose unauthorized instructions, it
 is matter of notoriety, within the province, he is guided.

"That the house of assembly of the province has, on
 many occasions, displayed a decided spirit of hostility to
 measures for the improvement of the commercial relations
 and interests of the colony, and that the said Denis Benja-
 min Viger, Esq., was himself for many years a member of
 the assembly, acting uniformly with the majority of that
 body, and that his services as their agent have been reward-
 ed by a large and annually increasing salary, paid him upon
 an illegal vote of the majority of that house out of the reve-
 nues of the province, under the head of "Contingencies of
 the house of assembly." Your Majesty's petitioners are in
 consequence exceedingly alarmed lest the said Denis Benja-
 min Viger, Esq., should misrepresent the actual state of
 the great commercial and general interests of the colony,
 and by inviting your Majesty's ministers to adopt a line of
 policy suited to his own views and those of his employers,
 lead to consequences subversive of the established relations
 between the parent state and the colony. To the communi-
 cations of an envoy so prejudiced from habit and situation,
 your petitioners most earnestly and humbly pray that your
 Majesty may instruct your ministers to listen with suspicion
 and distrust.

"That your Majesty's petitioners beg further humbly to
 represent, as a part of the same series of acts, the disfran-
 chisement of a large portion of your Majesty's subjects,
 resident in the district of Gaspé, and the establishment of an
 arbitrary disqualification of members of the assembly, found-
 ed upon a mere vote of a majority of their body, without
 any law to warrant the same.

"That your Majesty's petitioners regard the legislative
 council of the province, improved as its composition has
 been, and will no doubt further be, by your Majesty, as, in