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(No. 48.)

No. 6.

CANADA.

No. 6.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor-General the Right Hon. the Earl of ELGIN AND KINCARDINE to Earl GREY.

Government House, Montreal,

May 21, 1849.

(Received June 5, 1849.)

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit for your Lordship's information, a copy of a letter written to my Military Secretary, Colonel Bruce, by the leading members of a deputation from the town of Hamilton, who lately visited me with an address, with reference to a petition to the Queen which the Mayor is said to have sent to England.

I have, &c.,

The Right Hon. Earl Grey, (Signed) ELGIN AND KINCARDINE.
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 6.

Encl. in No. 6.

SIR,

Montreal, May 14, 1849.

A PUBLIC Meeting having lately been held at the city of Hamilton, at which a petition was adopted to Her Majesty, praying Her Majesty to recall his Excellency the Governor-General from the government of this province, and at the same time an address having been signed by 1,353 of the adult male population of the same city to his Excellency, containing contrary sentiments, and which we had the honour of presenting to his Excellency this day, we feel it to be due to his Excellency to make a concise statement of facts, in order to enable his Excellency to form a correct opinion respecting these contradictory movements.

It was originally determined by the Committee who had in charge the address which we had the honour of presenting, that, in the present excited state of the public mind, it was not advisable to call a public meeting, but to circulate the address for signature. After the address had received more than 1,000 names a public meeting was called by the Mayor of Hamilton, upon a requisition, signed by a number of individuals, known to be opposed to the address.

The Committee to which we have referred; upon consultation came to the conclusion that, as the address had already been subscribed by a majority of the male adult population, and which therefore must be regarded as the opinion of the city, it was not advisable to attend at the meeting thus called, but to leave it in the hands of the signers of the requisition. The Committee, with this view, issued an address to the inhabitants of the city, calling upon them to abstain from attending the meeting. Upon the day of the meeting about 300 persons assembled, of whom about 200 were inhabitants of the city, and the remainder drawn from the country. They then proceeded to adopt an address to Her Majesty, praying for the recall of his Excellency and other matters of a similar character; and, as we are informed, procured the same to be subscribed by the Mayor (who, since his elevation to that office, has, on several occasions displayed a warm zeal in the Conservative cause), in the name and on behalf of the city; and transmitted the same to Lord Stanley, for presentation. We beg leave to add, that the whole population of the city of Hamilton, as ascertained by the census of 1848, amounted to 10,011; and, at a liberal estimate the male adult population may number 2,000. Of this number 1,353 have signed the address presented to his Excellency. Many more must have been unavoidably overlooked in handing about the address, and we feel assured that but few can be found in the city who could be induced to subscribe to an address such as that adopted at the public meeting above alluded to.

We desire to add, that the above statement is made on our own responsibility, as we do not feel ourselves authorized, as a deputation, to express any opinion in the name of the signers to the address we had the honour to present to his Excellency, beyond what is contained in that address.

We have, &c.,

(Signed)

GEO. S. TIFFANY.
GEO. W. BARTON.
JOHN R. HOLDEN.
CHARLES O'CONNELL.
JOSEPH ROBINSON.
JAMES FARISH.
JAMES CUMMINGS.
JOHN FERRIE.