

COPY of a DISPATCH from Lieutenant General Lord Aylmer, K. C. B. to the Right Honorable the Earl of Aberdeen, K. T. dated Castle of St. Lewis, Quebec, 18th March 1835. [Ordered to be printed, 9th January 1836.

Copy,

No. 28.

CASTLE OF ST. LEWIS,

Quebec, 18th March 1835.

MY LORD,

ON the 14th instant I had the honor of transmitting to Your Lordship an Address to the King (engrossed on Parchment) of the House of Assembly of Lower Canada on the State of the Province: I now take leave to offer some observations on those passages only of that Address which immediately concern my Administration of the Government of the Province, and abstaining from taking any notice of the other passages in the Address in which the proceedings of His Majesty's Government at Home, and the House of Commons have been adverted.

In the first place I can only answer to the imputations of the House of Assembly, affecting myself individually, of being actuated by " vindictive and bitter feelings," and of arbitrary and unbecoming conduct on my part displayed towards the People of the Province, that the truth of those imputations can only be judged of by the public acts of my Administration which speak for themselves, and require neither comment or explanation in so far as regards the feelings and conduct imputed to me by the Assembly.

The House of Assembly complain " that the chief recommendation to office continues to be a " marked and bitter animosity towards the People of this Province; that it is seldom men of French " Canadian origin find their way into office under any circumstances," and so forth.

The assertion that it is seldom men of French Canadian origin find their way into office, is best answered by a reference to facts. From the accompanying Statement it appears that of one hundred and forty two appointments which have been made to Offices of profit and emolument, from the commencement of my Administration in the month of October 1830, to the 1st of the present month (March 1835) eighty are of French origin, and sixty two, not of French origin,—that during the same period the appointments made to Offices not of profit and emolument, amounting to five hundred and eighty, two hundred and ninety five are of French origin, and two hundred and eighty five not of French origin. It thus appears that in the two instances above mentioned, the one of appointments to Offices of profit and emolument, and the other to Offices not of profit and emolument, the advantage is on the side of the individuals of French origin.

In regard of the appointments of Commissioners for the trial of all causes in different parts of the Country, the same Statement shews that those appointments amounting during the same period to three hundred and thirty, of which one hundred and fifty one are of French origin, and one hundred and seventy nine not of French origin, leaving a trifling numerical advantage in favor of the latter class, which is accounted for in a *Nota Bene* at the foot of the Statement.

The appointments to be Commissioners for the trial of small causes, had no connexion whatever with the General Election, during which the local Government preserved the strictest neutrality. An augmentation of the number of the Magistrates in various parts of the Country, which had been in contemplation for some time, was suspended on that occasion to avoid any thing that could bear the appearance of an interference with the Elections; and the same Returning Officers in the several Counties, Cities and Boroughs who had before performed that office were reappointed, altho' it was perfectly well known that the greater number of them were favorable to the party opposed to the Government; and those only of the former Returning Officers were removed (a few in number) who had on previous occasions incurred the censure of the majority of the House of Assembly.

The assertion of the House of Assembly that persons appointed by me to Office are men who display " a marked and bitter animosity towards the People of this Province," must appear very extraordinary after reviewing the accompanying Statement of appointments to Office during my Administration, and it is one which I find difficult to answer, because the individuals alluded to are themselves taken from " the People of the Province," towards whom they are represented as entertaining sentiments of " marked " and bitter animosity."

The drift of this assertion of the House of Assembly, is evidently to make it appear that the Canadians of French origin are unfairly dealt with in the distribution of Offices, and it is made a matter of complaint with a certain political party in the Province, which is identified with the majority of the House of Assembly, that the Canadians of French origin are not appointed to Office in numbers corresponding with their proportion to the whole population of the Province.