

[*Private Circular.*]

TORONTO, DECEMBER 15, 1856.

SIR,

THE undersigned are deeply impressed with the belief that an urgent necessity now exists for an efficient political movement to oppose the reckless administration of public affairs, under which Canada now suffers. Sustained in office mainly by the Representatives of one section of the Province, the Government systematically pursues a sectional policy, humiliating to the inhabitants of Western Canada and most injurious to the moral and material interests of the whole country. Composed of men who held opinions prior to their accession to office utterly antagonistic to each other,—bound together by no tie but that of office—the Administration has been unable to initiate any beneficial public policy; but has occupied itself in creating new sources of patronage to sustain itself in power, and in concealing the internal discords produced by its distribution. The expenses of the State have vastly accumulated—the public debt is enormously increased—the taxes are largely augmented—equality of Representation is denied—our noble National School system is assailed—the Provincial revenues are appropriated to local and sectional objects, sustained in other sections by local taxation—the most easterly city of Eastern Canada is formally selected as the permanent Seat of Government,—and principles of Legislation are resorted to at every emergency ruinous to public credit and demoralizing to our public men.

The time seems to have arrived when a vigorous and united effort should be made to put an end to these abuses, and to secure a wiser and more patriotic administration of public affairs. From various causes unnecessary to recapitulate here, the Liberals of Upper Canada have for some time past been disunited; but these causes are now in a great measure removed, and it is thought that no serious obstacle now stands in the way of a thoroughly efficient organization for practical ends. After consultation with many friends, we have resolved to make the attempt to bring about such a union. We believe that the best remedy for the evils Canada now labours under will be found in the adoption of the following fixed principles of government and remedial measures:—

Representation by Population, without regard to a separating line between Upper and Lower Canada.

No Legislation by the Representatives of the people in matters of religion, and no appropriation of public money to sectarian uses.

Uniform Legislation for the whole Province, and gradual assimilation of the local institutions of the two sections.

National education, impartial, and free from sectarianism.

Constitutional restraints on the power of the administration, to stay the rapid and alarming increase of the public debt and the reckless system of Legislation pursued of late years.

Free Trade.

Administrative Reform.

Registration of Parliamentary voters.

Incorporation of the Hudson's Bay territory as Canadian soil.

We believe that it is on such principles that united Canada can alone advance satisfactorily and harmoniously. They involve no injustice to any one—no partiality to one section over the other,—and by their adoption sectarian animosities would be banished, at least from the political arena.

We have resolved to invite six prominent Liberals from each Parliamentary constituency in Upper Canada to meet at Toronto on Thursday, the 8th of January, 1857, for the purpose of forming an Association to carry out these ends. If you approve of these principles and measures—if you are prepared to stamp them on your political banner, and unseduced by the temptations of office, to struggle with a single eye for their accomplishment, we respectfully invite you to join us on the 8th, and aid us with your advice and influence in uniting all earnest men in the good cause.

We are, Sir, your obedient Servants.