

administration which was detested by the people, by employing them to crush those presses which advocated the best interests of the Country, whilst he protected the unbounded license of those Journals which calumniated the Country and its Representatives; but he must likewise make the administration of Justice, the means and tool of his personal revenge.

That inducement to the commission of a crime, the idea alone of which is revolting when it is predicated of him who has been specially appointed by Law and by the confidence of his Sovereign to watch over public morals; that subornation of perjury of which the Attorney General has rendered himself guilty, in the face of the Electors and of the whole Country, has been substantiated before Your Committee by precise and determinate evidence. It has been proved that at the Election which took place at Sorel in One thousand eight hundred and twenty seven, the Attorney General persuaded one St. Germain who had not the right of voting, (and which he himself declared he had not, as he had made a donation of his property to his son,) to take the proprietor's oath, in order that he might vote in his favor. He said to that individual that, in his quality of Attorney General, he assured him that his vote was a good one; that he was the Attorney General, and that it was he alone who could prosecute him for perjury. He even dared to take his hand and place it upon the Book of the Evangelists, calling him his friend, and assuring him that he had nothing to fear; whilst he very well knew, that that individual had no right to vote, since he afterwards prosecuted persons for perjury who had no more right to vote than that individual. Your Committee think it right to observe that on that occasion, St. Germain did in fact take the proprietor's oath, and voted for the Attorney General, and that he was not the only person similarly situated to whom the Attorney General promised impunity, and whose hand he took hold of, to engage him to take the oath, usual on such occasions.

Your Committee do not hesitate to declare that as the facts which have been established by the proofs laid before them, are such as must deprive the Attorney General of every species of esteem and confidence in the minds of the Inhabitants of this Province, it cannot be without detriment to the administration of Criminal Justice, that he can be continued in the exercise of the important office with which he is invested; and that, if it be possible that, in this Country, a public functionary of the elevated rank of Attorney General of this Province, could be guilty of such gross faults, (not to call them such crimes,) without their being a means of reaching and punishing him, we must foresee a diminution of the high opinion which the Inhabitants of this Province entertain of the Constitution which they owe to the Justice of the Imperial Parliament.

Your Committee not having yet completed their investigation relative to several other Petitions, which equally embrace matters of heavy complaint against the Attorney General, have considered that they ought to confine themselves in this Report to the Petition of the Inhabitants of the City of Montreal, and the enquiries they have made relative thereto, and the serious consideration they have bestowed thereon, have come to the following Resolutions:—

Resolved. 1^o. That it is the opinion of this Committee, that James St. Esquire, Attorney General of this Province, by persisting in prosecuting before the Superior Tribunals, persons accused of minor offences, which ought to have been prosecuted at the Quarter Sessions of the Peace, has been guilty of maladministration in his office, and this with the sordid view of encreasing his emolument.