

Every Day new Matter, and further circumstances arise, which confirm and strenghten the Sentiments of the Petitioners, as expressed in their Petitions. And they are now fully convinced, that, unless a proper Constitution of Government is established immediately for that Country, the whole Affairs of the Province must inevitably fall into such extreme confusion as will operate to the entire Ruin of their fortunes, and ultimately the absolute Destruction of the Province.

It is not necessary to enter into any detail of the Reasons which have induced me to defer applying to Parliament on these Affairs during the Two last Sessions, as the Circumstances are within the Recollection of every Member of this Honourable House.

These Petitions were framed and agreed on in Public Meetings held for that Purpose, in the Cities of Quebec and Montreal; and Committees were then named and appointed by the People, to forward and support them.

In these Petitions, Sir, the Inhabitants of the Province of Quebec have exposed to this Honourable House, that their situation has become truly deplorable by the Operation of the System of Government established for that Province by the Act of the Fourteenth of His Majesty, commonly called the "Quebec Act." And they have likewise thought it their Duty to point out, for the Consideration of Parliament, those Reforms which, in their Apprehension, will tend most effectually to promote the Happiness and Prosperity of the Province, and at the same time to give due Strength, Energy, and Support to its Government.

As His Majesty's Ministers have submitted to this Honourable House a Bill, professedly designed to remedy the Evils of the present System, it is unnecessary for me to enter into a Detail of the Distresses which the People of that Province have suffered from the Confusion and Uncertainty of the Laws, and the Want of determinate Rules and fixed Principles in the Courts of Justice; though I am confident the Detail would astonish every Member of this Honourable House, as it must be Matter of Surprize that such a series of Anarchy and Oppression should have been permitted