

The persons in authority, who had stigmatised the old Members as unworthy of being re-elected, were chiefly Protestants of British birth or descent, and naturally supposed to be partial to the Religion, Laws, Language and Manners of the *great majority of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland*. The event confirmed the previous inference which many disinterested reasoners had drawn, that the reprobation of Candidates for seats in the House of Assembly, by Governors and Councillors appointed by a Protestant and British King, would be rather a strong recommendation to the favor of a people, whose religious and Anti-British prejudices had been so preposterously fostered by the Legislative Acts of the British Parliament. The great Majority of the Members of the sixth House of Assembly were persons who *professed, at least* the Romish Religion, and the most persevering disposition to oppose whatever could tend to innovate upon the old French Laws, or to disturb the hereditary routine of rural labour and amusement, which distinguished their Constituents.

The old Members were so confident of the effects of the predilections of the constituent body, that they at first derided every doubt of success; but, perceiving the unprecedented energy with which the Executive, its immediate adherents, and the Subjects of British origin prepared to oppose them, they resumed the arms of ridicule and misrepresentation, which had done them such good service at the previous election. For this purpose, the newspaper *Le Canadien*, was adopted to furnish suitable texts for the oral comments of the Candidates and their agents; and it was circulated at such an extraordinary expense, as gave currency to an idle report, that it was partly supported by the Plenipotentiary of Napoleon Buonaparte, near the Government of the United States.

The *Canadien*, thus connected in the minds of the credulous, with the intrigues and ambition of the *Ty aut of Europe*, became the object of additional detestation and alarm to many persons well affected to the Government. Urged by them, and probably still farther stimulated by the writings which it contained, the Governor General, by the advice of the Executive Council, ordered the seizure of the *Canadien* Press, which, with all the papers found in the Printing Office, was conveyed, under a military escort, to Quebec. This act was followed up by such a display of military precautions, as induced the well disposed part of the community to believe, that an extensive conspiracy against the Government had been discovered. They were however, speedily undeceived, and led to suppose, that views of preserving the minds of the people from the contamination of the seditious sentiments, which flowed like a deluge from the *Canadien* Press, were the principal motives of its seizure; and, that the display of military preparation was made as a check upon the more violent agitators, who chiefly resided in the neighbourhood of the cities and towns. After an examination of the Papers found in the Printing Office of the *Canadien*, six persons only, three of them Members of the late

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