

COPY of a DESPATCH addressed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, to the Lieutenant-Governor of *Upper Canada*, dated 8th November 1832, on the subject of PETITIONS from the People of that Province, for the REMOVAL of His Excellency; the DISSOLUTION of the LEGISLATURE, and the Remedy of certain alleged GRIEVANCES; and of any ADDRESSES to HIS MAJESTY from the Legislative Council, or from other Inhabitants of the Province, agreed to in consequence of the said Despatch.

—No. 1.—

COPY of a DESPATCH from Viscount *Goderich* to Major-General Sir *John Colborne*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 8th November 1832.

**D**URING several months past I have been in occasional communication with Mr. William M'Kenzie, upon the subject of the grievances said to exist in Upper Canada, and for redress of which various petitions have been addressed to His Majesty.

As Mr. M'Kenzie has been the bearer of those petitions to this country, I have gladly availed myself of his residence here to obtain such information as it is in his power to give respecting the opinions and wishes of that portion of the inhabitants of the province by whom he has been deputed to act; and although I have adhered to the general rule of declining to explain the views of His Majesty's Government, on questions of Canadian policy, to any person except the Governor of the Province, I have been anxious to afford Mr. M'Kenzie the most ample opportunity of doing justice to the case which he laid before me.

From the voluminous mass of that gentleman's correspondence, I have selected three documents which profess to embody the entire substance of that case, as it affects the present condition of Upper Canada; of these documents I have the honour to enclose copies for your information.

I propose in this despatch to follow Mr. M'Kenzie through those parts of his statement respecting the representation of the inhabitants in the House of General Assembly, which appear to me essential to the consideration of the practical questions he has undertaken to agitate. But confining myself to what I consider as really relevant, I shall necessarily pass over in silence some details which have been introduced, with no perceptible tendency to elucidate the subjects in discussion, and much invective and sarcasm which would have been far more conveniently spared. It is with no intentional disrespect to Mr. M'Kenzie that I remark, that he has adopted a style and method of composition singularly ill adapted to bring questions of so much intricacy and importance to a definite issue. But however discursive may be his papers, or however acrimonious their tone, I am not on that account disposed to withhold my attention from any useful suggestions they may contain for the public good.

I am the more induced to devote to this discussion such leisure as I can command, because I am solicitous that the comparatively small body of persons whom Mr. M'Kenzie represents should have no reason to think that their complaints had been overborne by the contrary declarations of the much more numerous bodies opposed to them. Mr. M'Kenzie, indeed, would have himself understood as speaking the sentiments of the entire population of Upper Canada, excepting only a few public functionaries, whose interests are opposed to those of the people at large. It is not, however, necessary to have a very long experience of public controversies of this nature, to be aware of the levity with which such pretensions are continually advanced upon the slightest and most inadequate grounds.

Almost all complaints, the most opposite and contradictory not excepted, which reach this office, are nearly as a matter of course preferred in the name of the collective society; and it becomes necessary to distinguish carefully in such cases between mere rhetorical embellishments, and statements made in the cautious and