

Chief; our Judges, dependant for the tenure of their offices on the mere will and pleasure of the Crown, for the most part the violent partizans of a corrupt administration, have become more completely the tools and mercenaries of the Executive, by accepting the wages of their servility, in gross violation of every principle of Judicial independence, from foreign authority, without the intervention of the people to whom, through their Representatives, belongs the sole right of voting the salaries of their public servants; the office holders of the Province devour our revenues, in salaries so extravagant as to deprive us of the funds requisite for the general improvement of the Country, whereby our public works are arrested, and the navigation of our rivers continues obstructed; a Legislative Council appointed by men resident three thousand miles from this country, and systematically composed so as to thwart and oppose the efforts of our freely-chosen Representatives in all measures for the promotion of the public good, after continuing unchanged during the present administration, thereby depriving the country of the advantages of domestic legislation, has at length been modified in a manner insulting to all classes of society, disgraceful to public morality, and to the annihilation of the respect and confidence of all parties in that branch of the Legislature, by the introduction of men for the most part notorious only for their incapacity, and remarkable alone for their political insignificance, thus making evident, even to demonstration, to all, whatever may be their preconceived ideas, the propriety and urgent necessity of introducing the principal of election into that body, as the only method of enabling the Provincial Legislature to proceed beneficially to the despatch of public business.

Our municipalities are utterly destroyed; the country parts of the Province, as a disgraceful exception to the other parts of the Continent, are totally deprived of all power of regulating, in a corporate capacity, their local affairs, through freely elected Parish and Township officers; the rising generation is deprived of the blessings of education, the primary schools which provided for the instruction of 40,000 children, having been shut up by the Legislative Council, a body hostile to the progress of useful knowledge, and instigated to this act by an Executive inimical to the spread of general information among the people—the Jesuits's College founded and endowed by the provident government which colonised this Province for the encouragement and dissemination of learning and the sciences therein, has, with a barbarism unworthy the rulers of a civilized state, disgraceful to the enlightened age in which we live, and unparalleled even among the Goths and Vandals, been converted into, and is still retained, as a barrack for soldiery, whilst the funds and property devoted to the support of this and similar institutions have been, and continued to be, squandered and mal-administered for the advantage of the favourites, creatures, and tools of the government; our citizens are deprived of the benefits of impartially chosen juries, arbitrarily persecuted by Crown officers, who to suit the purposes of the vindictive Government of which they are the creatures, have revived proceedings of an obsolete charter, precedents for which are to be found only in the darkest ages of British history. Thus our Judiciary being sullied by combined conspiracies of a wicked executive, slavish Judges, partizan Law officers, and political Sheriffs, the innocent and patriotic are exposed to be sacrificed, whilst the enemies of the country, and the violators of all law, are protected and patronized, according as it may please the administration to crush and destroy, to save and protect. Our commerce and do-

mestic industry are paralysed; our public lands alienated, at a nominal price, to a company of speculators, strangers to the country, or bestowed upon insolent favorites, as rewards for their sycophancy; our money is exorted from us without our consent, by taxes unconstitutionally imposed by a foreign Parliament, to be afterwards converted into an instrument of our degradation by being distributed among a howling herd of officials, against our will, without our participation, and in violation of all principles of constitutional law.

In the midst of our honest and unwearyed efforts to procure a redress of the foregoing grievances, of our fellow-citizens have been insolently called on to give an account of their public conduct, for which they were responsible to no individual, least of all to the person whom chance or ministerial patronage may place for a season at the head of our Provincial Government. They have been harassed and annoyed by dismissals from office of mere honor, held for the benefit, and at the request, of their own immediate neighbours, because they vindicated the rights of their country, like American Freemen; and as the index of further intended aggression, armed troops are being scattered in the time of profound peace throughout the country, with the presumptions and wicked design of restraining by physical force the expression of public opinion, and of completing by violence and blood-shed our slavery and ruin, already determined upon beyond the seas.

Such an aggression as this might justify the recourse, on the part of outraged people, to all and every means to preserve the last of their insulted privileges—the right to complain. But thanks to the blindness of the aggressors, the wickedness of the measure will be providentially neutralized by its folly. The regiments about to be quartered among us are composed of men sprung from, and educated with, the Democracy of their country. They, for the most part, entered on their present profession, not from choice, but because they could not find any other employment in their native land. Instead of being stimulated to good conduct by the hope of promotion, too poorly paid, they are exposed to every sort of petty tyranny, and if murmur escape their lips, they are subjected, like the bonded slave, to the ignoble punishment of the lash. Contrasting his hard fate with the freedom, content, employment and high wages to be obtained in the United States, and certain that the inhabitants of these Counties lying near and bordering upon, the Lines, will not impede the efforts which these soldiers may make to emigrate to the neighbouring republic, it will become morally impossible to keep in Her Majesty's Province, whilst scattered in detachments, the men who are now about to be made the vile instruments of our slavery and their own dishonor.

The long and heavy chain of abuses and oppressions under which we suffer, and to which every year has added a more galling link, prove that our history is but a recapitulation of what other Colonies have endured before us. Our grievances are but a second edition of their grievances. Our petitions for relief are the same. Like theirs, they have been treated with scorn and contempt, and have brought down upon the petitioners but additional outrage and persecution. Thus the experience of the past demonstrates the folly of expecting justice from European authorities.

Dark, however, and unpromising as may be the present prospects of this our beloved country, we are encouraged by the public virtues of our fellow-citizens to hope that the day of our regeneration is not far distant. Domestic manufactures are springing up amongst us, with a rapidity to cheer us in the contest. The impulse given but a few short

months ago by the example of generous and patriotic minds, of wearing domestic cloths, has been generally followed, and will shortly be universally adopted. The determination not to consume duty-paying merchandise, and to encourage Free Trade with our neighbours, matters of vital importance, is daily becoming more general, resolute and effective. The people are every where being duly impressed with the conviction that the sacrifices to be made must bear some proportion to the glorious object to be achieved, and that personal inconvenience for the good cause must therefore be not only freely, but readily endured.

FELLOW-COUNTRYMEN! Brothers in affliction! Ye, whatever be your origin, language or religion, to whom Equal Laws and the Rights of Man are dear; whose hearts have throbbed with indignation whilst witnessing the innumerable insults to which your common country has been exposed, and who have often been justly alarmed whilst pondering over the sombre futurity preparing by misgovernment and corruption for this Province and for your posterity, in the name of that country, and of the rising generation, now having no hope but in you, we call upon you to assume by systematic organization in your several Townships and Parishes, that position which can alone procure respect for yourselves and your demands. Let Committees of Vigilance be at once put in active operation throughout your respective neighbourhoods. Withdrawing all confidence from the present administration, and from such as will be so base as to accept office under it, forthwith assemble in your Parishes and elect Pacifcator Magistrates, after the example of your brother reformers of the County of Two Mountains, to protect the people at once from the useless and improvident expense, and from the vengeance of their enemies. Our Young Men, the hope of the country, should every where organize themselves, after the plan of their brothers, "The Sons of Liberty" in Montreal, in order that they may be prepared to act with promptitude and effect as circumstances may require; and the brave militiamen, who by their blood and valour have twice preserved this country for ungrateful rulers should at once associate together, under officers of their own choice, for the security of good order and the protection of life and property in their respective localities. Thus prepared, Colonial Liberty may haply be yet preserved.

In this hope, and depending for a disenthralment from misrule under which we now groan, on the Providence of God, whose blessing on our disinterested labours we humbly implore, relying on the love of liberty which the free air and impregnable fastnesses of America should inspire in the hearts of the People at large, and upon the sympathy of our Democratic neighbours, who in the establishment of arbitrary rule on their borders, wisely and clearly foresaw the uprearing of a system which might be made a precedent and instrument for the introduction of the same arbitrary rule into other parts of the American Continent, and who can never consent that the principles for which they successfully struggled in the Eighteenth, shall, in our persons, be trampled in the dust in the Nineteenth, century, We, the DELEGATES of the Confederated Counties of Richelieu, St. Hyacinthe, Rouville, L'Acadie, Chambly and Vercheres, hereby publicly register the solemn and determined resolution of the People whom we represent, to carry into effect, with the least delay possible, the preceding recommendations, and never to cease their patriotic exertions until the various grievances of which they now complain shall have been redressed; and we hereby invite our fellow-citizens throughout