

charter of your rights, that years must elapse before you can re-assume and completely enjoy the liberty which you should inherit from your forefathers. The accession of a young Queen afforded a favourable opportunity of renewing the conditions of the social compact, and of your contract of allegiance. Co-heirs with her to the institutions of your country, that country you have often defended with your blood. With the persevering industry of your constant daily toil have you raised it to a pinnacle of redundant wealth, and now in the midst of that dazzling splendour, which has been created by your indomitable energies, you are robbed by unequal and unjust laws; borne down by grinding taxation, which deprives you of the necessaries, in order to minister to the profusions of an overbearing caste occupied in entangling you in its meshes, there to limit your privileges, whilst you have been honestly and devotedly working to create and maintain its enormous wealth, which is at once its portion and the instrument of your political subjection. Whilst in some instances you were successfully acting in the dignity of conscious might, with sorrow have we too often seen some of your worthiest friends neglected at your recent elections, and a portion of the democracy indifferent spectators, willing auxiliaries, or the servile mercenaries of one or the other aristocratic factions which are contending for the privilege of loading you with their oppressive yoke, totally indifferent to your interests, except in so far as the relaxation of an abuse tends to the security of their own power.

In the free exercise of our acknowledged privileges—in defence of rights guaranteed and dear to us, we have met publicly in our various counties, as a preliminary proceeding, to protest solemnly against the infamous invasion of powers inherently appertaining to us. Conscious of our strength and right, we treated with contempt a silly proclamation of an ignorant governor against these meetings. We hope this lesson will not be lost. We trust that it will prevent for the future a presumptuous interference with the people's immunities both here and elsewhere. We are gratified that our conduct in promptly repelling the attack of the British Parliament upon our property has merited your approbation. Have you reflected on the mighty responsibility to the whole British empire which has devolved upon the people of this province? The British ministry could never have introduced a monstrous measure which aims at the destruction of the powers of a democracy, acting through their own branch of the legislature, merely for the purpose of hastening the payment of a few paltry official salaries, when that object could have been obtained by a simple and honest process, were it not that your aristocracy are preparing an unholy scheme for the destruction of your own liberties. Lower Canada is made the theatre of the experiment, not because