

speak of the bill itself; and he was surprised how such a bill could have been introduced into a British parliament. By the 31st of the late king, which was their constitution, they had themselves the right to make laws for their peace, welfare and good government, reserving certain powers to the king and parliament of the mother country to legislate in particular cases. *The Imperial Parliament could not constitutionally alter this law WITHOUT OUR CONSENT*; for if so, we had no constitution at all, the provincial legislature would have no rights nor privileges, nor the people any security. Indeed the Imperial Parliament *having reserved this bill for the purpose of giving the provinces an opportunity of expressing their sentiments, was a clear proof that THEY WILL NOT ALTER THE 31ST OF THE LATE KING, WITHOUT OUR CONSENT.*

As to the clauses of the bill, he was sure most of the members were greatly alarmed at them: the country at large had expressed their decided opinions. The introduction of executive officers into the House was shocking, was monstrous, it shewed suspicion and want of confidence, insulting to the people's representatives; the extension of parliament to five years was highly objectionable; the limiting of the privileges of the House of Assembly was most injurious; if their privileges were to be limited and defined, they would lose their just weight and influence in the legislature; * the increased qualification of members, and indeed almost all its clauses, were aimed against the liberties of the people. *It was evident that the persons who drafted that bill had little regard for the principles of the British constitution; an imperfect knowledge of the character of His Majesty's Canadian subjects, AND NO IDEA OF CIVIL LIBERTY.* The proposed limitation of the representation to sixty members, however the population might increase, was invidious; *there was neither wisdom, nor good sense, nor justice evinced by the framers of that monstrous bill;*

**It is one of the principles of the British constitution that neither the privileges of the Commons, the general privileges and powers of Parliament, nor the King's prerogative, can be exactly defined by written statute. It is only in their broad features that they are all provided for by Magna Charta, and the bill of rights; every thing else is wisely left to the determination of natural sense, justice, and policy, or in other words to the common law of the land, and the usages of the realm, thus always affording abundant scope for the struggles of each part of the system against any encroachments of the others; and awakening, producing, and disseminating a collision of sentiments, arguments, and proceedings, which constitutes the very essence of liberty, under a well regulated government.*

L. L. M.