

late years, invariably met their complaints. His Majesty has manifested every disposition to throw himself upon the loyalty and attachment of his Canadian subjects. He has directed the fullest explanations to be laid before them with respect to the expenditure of the revenues at his own disposal; and he has displayed a confidence which now, unhappily, appears to have been misplaced, in the just intentions of the House of Assembly, by placing unconditionally, at their own disposal, a large portion of the Crown revenues, on the distinct understanding, and in the entire conviction, that when by this liberal concession all grounds of jealousy should be removed, they would enable His Majesty to place the judges, and the higher officers of the State, in that condition of pecuniary independence upon an annual vote, which is essential to the due administration of justice, and to the true interests of the province. I shall offer no comment upon the spirit in which His Majesty's gracious offer and liberal concessions have been met by the Assembly.

I have received and laid before His Majesty the Address of the Legislative Council. His Majesty receives with satisfaction the expressions of loyalty and attachment to the Constitution which are contained in this Address, and he is readily induced to believe the assurance, that the great body of His Canadian subjects do not participate in the views of those who would be desirous to effect extensive changes in the fundamental institutions of the country; yet His Majesty cannot but wish that in laying at the foot of the Throne the expressions of their own feelings of loyalty and attachment, they had abstained from using, with reference to the other branch of the Legislature, language less temperate in its tone than is consistent with their own dignity, or calculated to maintain or restore a good understanding between the two bodies. More especially His Majesty laments the introduction of any word which should have the appearance of ascribing to a class of His subjects, of one origin, of views at variance with the allegiance which they owe to His Majesty. On all classes alike His Majesty relies for a cheerful obedience to the laws. To all classes he will ever extend his paternal protection; and the Legislative Council may rest assured, that He will not fail to secure to all the constitutional rights and liberties which they enjoy by their participation in British institutions.

I have also laid before the King the Address of the House of Assembly. I cannot pass over this document without observation. The object of this Address is, to pray His Majesty to sanction a National Convention of the people of Canada, for the purpose of superseding the Legislative authorities, and taking into their consideration, in which of two modes the constitution of Canada shall be altogether destroyed: whether by the introduction of the elective principle, or by the entire abolition of the Legislative Council. On the mode proposed, His Majesty is willing to put no harsher construction than that of extreme inconsiderateness. To the object sought to be obtained, His Majesty can never be advised to consent, as deeming it inconsistent with the very existence of monarchical institutions: to every measure which may secure the independence and raise the character of the Legislative Council, His Majesty will be most happy to assent. In 1828, a Committee of the House of Commons carefully investigated the grievances alleged by the inhabitants of the Canadas, and among them, the constitution of the Legislative Council was a matter of serious deliberation. The Committee reported, that one of the most important subjects to which their inquiries had been directed, was the state of the Legislative Councils in both the Canadas, and the manner in which those Assemblies had answered the purposes for which they were instituted. The Committee strongly recommended, that a more independent character should be given to those bodies, that the majority of their members should not consist of persons holding offices at the pleasure of the Crown, and that any other measures that might tend to connect more intimately that branch of the constitution with the interests of the colonies, would be attended with the greatest advantage. With respect to the Judges, with the exception only of the Chief Justice, whose presence on particular occasions might be necessary, the Committee entertained no doubt that they had better not be involved in the political business of the House. An examination of the constitution of the body at that period and at the present, will sufficiently show in what spirit His Majesty's Government have laboured to accomplish the wishes of Parliament. The House of Assembly state correctly, that it has often been avowed that the people of Canada should see nothing in the institutions of neighbouring countries to which they should look with envy. I have yet to learn that His Majesty's subjects in Canada entertain such sentiments at present, or that they desire to copy in a monarchical government all the institutions of a republic, or to have the mockery of an executive absolutely dependent for its existence upon a popular body usurping the whole authority of the State. I am not prepared to advise His Majesty to recommend to Parliament so serious a step as the repeal of the Act of 1791, whereby the institutions of this country were conferred separately upon the province of Upper and Lower Canada. Serious as are the difficulties by which your Lordship's Administration is beset, they are yet not such as to induce me to despair of the practical working of the British Constitution; but should events unhappily force upon Parliament the exercise of its supreme authority to compose the internal dissensions of the colonies, it would be my object and my duty, as a servant of the Crown, to submit to Parliament such modifications of the charter of the Canadas as should tend, not to the introduction of institutions inconsistent with monarchical government, but to the maintaining and strengthening the connexion with the mother country, by a close adherence to the spirit of the British Constitution, and by preserving in their proper place, and within their due limits, the mutual rights and privileges of all His Majesty's subjects.

I have, &c.

(signed) E. G. Stanley.