

APPENDIX.

under the vicissitudes of that state, have undergone a deprivation of the inestimable happiness of living under British Laws and British Government, by becoming a prey to temporary conquest, have you not enjoyed the most perfect security and tranquillity under the powerful protection of that same Government, whose fostering and paternal care has been equally employed in promoting your internal welfare.

What then can be the means used by these evil disposed and wicked persons by which they can hope to bring about their traitorous and ambitious designs—by what arguments can they expect that a people, in the enjoyment of every blessing that can contribute to happiness in this world, shall renounce that happiness, to embrace their views? By what argument can they expect that a brave and loyal people, hitherto impressed with the warmest and sincerest attachment to the best of Kings, whose whole reign has been one series of benefits bestowed on them, shall abandon that loyalty and become monsters of ingratitude, fit to be held up to the detestation of the world, to promote their projects? It is true, the most base and diabolical falsehoods are industriously promulgated and disseminated. In one part, it is announced as my intention to embody and make soldiers of you, and that having applied to the late House of Representatives to enable me to assemble twelve thousand of you for that purpose, and they having declined to do so. I had therefore dissolved them. This is not only directly false, such an idea never having entered into my mind, nor the slightest mention having ever been made of it; but it is doubly wicked and atrocious, because it has been advanced by persons, who must have been supposed to speak with certainty on the subject, and was therefore the more calculated to impose upon you. In another part you are told that I wanted to tax your lands, and that the late House of Assembly would consent only to tax wine, and upon that account, I had dissolved the House. Inhabitants of St. Denis! this is also directly false; I never had the most distant idea of taxing you at all; such had never even been for a moment the subject of my deliberations, and when the late House offered to pay the Civil List, I could not have taken any step in a matter of such importance without the King's instructions, and therefore it was still long before we came to the consideration of how it was to be paid. In truth not one word was ever to my knowledge mentioned on the subject.

In other parts, despairing of producing instances from what I have done, recourse is had to what I intend to do, and it is boldly told you, that I mean to oppress you. Base and daring fabricators of falsehood, on what part or what act of my life do you found such an assertion? What do you know of me or of my intentions? Canadians, ask of those to whom you formerly looked with attention and respect, ask the heads of your Church who have opportunities of knowing me; these are men of honor and knowledge, these are men from whom you ought to seek for information and advice; the leaders of faction, the demagogues of a party, associate not with me; they cannot know me.

For what purpose should I oppress you? Is it to serve the King? Will that Monarch, who during fifty years has never issued one order that had you for its object, that was not for your benefit and happiness—will he now, beloved, honored, adored by his subjects, covered with glory, descending into the vale of years, accompanied with the prayers and blessings of a grateful people, will he, contrary to the tenor of a whole life of honor and virtue, now give orders to his Servants to oppress his Canadian Subjects? It is impossible that you can for a moment believe it. You will spurn from you with just indignation, the miscreant who will suggest such a thought to you.

Is it for myself, then, that I should oppress you? For what should I oppress you? Is it from ambition? What can you give me?—Is it for power? Alas! my good friends! with a life ebbing not slowly to its period, under the pressure of disease acquired in the service of my country, I look only to pass what it may please God to suffer to remain of it, in the comfort of retirement among my friends. I remain among you only in obedience to the commands of my King. What power can I wish for? Is it then for wealth that I would oppress you? Enquire of those who know me, whether I regard wealth; I never did, when I could enjoy it, it is now of no use to me; to the value of your Country laid at my feet, I would prefer the consciousness of having, in a single instance, contributed to your happiness and prosperity.

These personal allusions to myself—These details, in any other case might be unbecoming, and beneath me; but nothing can be unbecoming or beneath me, that can tend to save you from the gulf of Crime and Calamity, into which guilty men would plunge you,

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