

little has been done. On the contrary, it is with great regret I have perceived that you have devoted yourselves more to thwart and controul the patriotic and beneficent measures of the lower house, and to gratify the unconstitutional demands of the Executive, than to weigh the true interests of the community, which can only be maintained by a due equipoise between the power and prerogatives of the crown, and the privileges and liberties of the people. You, gentlemen, are placed in the situation of the House of Peers, in the illustrious prototype of our constitution, to which we look up with veneration, that of Great Britain; the guardians, mediators, and judges, between the sovereign, and the Commons House. Unfortunately for this country, you are not the hereditary counsellors of the crown, the hereditary advocates of the people, as the nobles of England are; were it so, and had his late Majesty availed of that provision in our constitutional charter, which enables him to create hereditary titles of dignity in Canada, with hereditary seats among you, (and my gratified eye perceives around me the representatives of many illustrious families, the ancient nobility of this land, amply deserving of so signal a mark of their monarch's approbation,) you, gentlemen of the Legislative Council, would have presented a different aspect; you would have been a firm bulwark of the people's rights, a discreet support of the dignity of the sovereign; instead of, alas! that I must say it, a subservient branch of the Executive government alone, degraded from your high estate, into ministerial tools, placemen and courtiers. I see amongst you both the judge's ermine, & the bishop's lawn, pillars and supporters of the State, when erected upon independence, and buttressed by integrity. But free, O, free yourselves, from the paltry ambition of wealth, and place, and power; rather devote yourselves to a nobler ambition, of being the people's friends, and being so, you will also prove yourselves the truest friends of the monarch. I have been induced to address you thus, as a body, chiefly from the consideration of the intemperate, and unparliamentary resolutions you entered into on the 6th of March 1821; which I earnestly recommend to your reconsideration; and unequivocally declare that you will, as a body, wholly forfeit my confidence, and be looked upon as the betrayers of one co-ordinate branch of the legislature, into the toils that another has set for it, and between whom you ought to have been the point of conciliation, union, protection and support; unless you wholly rescind them.

I will not detain you on that head, further than to declare, that those resolutions form altogether, an unparalleled assumption of the power of dictating, both to his Majesty, and to his Commons; an assumption which is, in the words of some of you who were dissentient on the occasion, "without precedent in any of the colonies and dependencies of Great Britain," and such as