

*First*, because the project as announced to us by those public prints if consummated, would be to us the UNMERITED PRIVATION of our CONSTITUTION, as the same is defined by the Act of the British Parliament, passed in the thirty-first year of his Majesty's Reign, entitled, "An Act for more effectual provision for the government of the Province of Quebec in North America, and to make further provision for the government of "the same;" a Constitution endeared to us by many warmly cherished considerations. That statute was given and received as the declaration of BRITISH LIBERTY, made to British born subjects, having by birth an indefeasible right to such liberty; that statute is the mode and the form prescribed by the parental solicitude of his late gracious Majesty and his Parliament, by which we are to use this liberty in which we are born, a mode and a form guaranteed by the solemn enactment of a British Parliament and which will not, we trust, be taken from us, without our consent.

*Secondly*, because it was given, as the well earned reward of fidelity, to brave and devoted subjects and soldiers who sacrificed their property and shed their blood in defence of their King and Country.

*Thirdly*, because many of us, not originally born subjects, in confidence of protection to our persons and property under British institutions, have not only made permanent settlements in this Province, under this Constitution, but have actually fought and bled in its defence, successfully, and with credit universally acknowledged by His Majesty's generals and officers having the conduct of the late war in this Province.

We therefore, gravely, respectfully and earnestly, remonstrate to your honourable House, against all innovations in this our Constitution, without our consent, expressed by legislative acts of the Province, passed in due session by the King, the Council and the Assembly thereof; and

*First*, because this is the only legal course to effect any change in the act, except in as far as the said act, in express terms, reserves to his Majesty, his heirs and successors, and the Parliament of Great Britain, certain powers of future legislation, on particular matters, in the said act also expressed.

*Secondly*, because that statute, the pledge of security to Canadian rights and liberties, the very branch which identified us with our parent stock, is about to be torn from us against our will, and substituted by a hasty, ill digested project, subversive of all that is valuable in that statute, a catastrophe that we, your petitioners, could never apprehend, if your honourable house be only apprised of the true state of the colony.

*Thirdly*, Because the project, as appears by those public prints, contemplates the transformation of our House of Assembly into a mixed chamber of Executive Councillors and of the