

pire. That your Petitioners, viewing with alarm such an encroachment upon their political privileges, would fain believe that it has been made without considering their Constitutional Rights and the provisions of the said Declaratory Act; that your Petitioners, nevertheless, solemnly protest against this violation of the most sacred rights of the People of Lower-Canada, and pray for the immediate repeal of the Act passed in favour of the said Land Company. That your Petitioners have reason to believe that the said tax is now being paid into the Colonial Chest of this Province, for the disposal of the Executive, without the sanction and in defiance of the expressed will of the Commons of Lower-Canada; that your Petitioners anticipate with fear, as a consequence thereof, a frightful increase of corruption in this Province; that in addition to the fears generated by this unconstitutional taxation, and the equally unconstitutional application of the said tax, your Petitioners foresee, as arising out of the peculiar powers conferred on the Company in question, the destruction of the political independence of the people, who may unfortunately become subject to its control, and who will be rendered basely subservient to the said Company.

That the continued dilapidations of the Revenues of the Province, in direct violation of the Constitution, are another source of alarm to His Majesty's Canadian subjects; that after the abandonment of the late Colonial Secretary's project to seize upon the said Revenues by suspending an Act which did no more than confirm to the Commons of Lower Canada a right previously recognized, without conferring any new privileges, His Majesty's Canadian subjects did not expect to be so soon called upon to resist similar unconstitutional encroachments and dilapidations; yet very recently the indisputable privileges of the Assembly have been again violated by the payment of the Public Servants without the sanction or cognizance of the only body authorized to give such sanction.

That the people of the old Colonies, now the United States of North America, however much they were aggrieved by attempts at unconstitutional taxation, had much less to complain of, on the score of Executive usurpation, than the People of this Province; the Assembly having repeatedly declared its fixed determination not to sanction that which it must ever consider a tyrannical violation of its rights, and which the people of this Province regard as a virtual dissolution of the Constitution, and for the consequences of which your Petitioners cannot answer.

That under these circumstances, your Petitioners claim for His Majesty's Canadian subjects, the protection of your Honourable House against these and similar acts of pillage. That your Honourable House may and ought at once to ascertain, in order to bring to just punishment those who authorized so criminal an assumption of power.

That inasmuch as no Session of the Provincial Parliament has intervened since the date of the aforesaid Petition of the Commons of this Province to your Honourable House, your Petitioners abstain from alluding at any length to the insuperable differences and the ever widening breach between the House of Assembly and the Legislative Council of this Province—differences springing out of the very constitution of the latter body: nevertheless, your Petitioners cannot avoid reminding your Honourable House that the aforesaid Petition contained a prayer that the Legislative Council, as at present constituted, be abolished, and that the People of this Province be empowered to elect the second branch of the Legislature in future, as the only means of producing that harmony, without which internal peace and good government cannot exist:

That as an evidence that the people at large fully participate in the opinions of the majority of the House of Assembly, your Petitioners take leave to refer your Honourable House to the result of the recent Elections in the said Province of Lower-Canada, which avowedly turned upon the approval or the disapproval of the Elective principle, and which result is almost unanimously in favour of the said principle.