

## To the Constituency of the County of Annapolis.

*My valued friends and Countrymen :*

WERE the obligations of public duty to be impaired in their influence over me, the honor of representing your noble County, endeared to me by early recollections and the experience of mature years, would not fail to animate my flagging energy: and it is my happiness to be united with so many of you by personal friendships and relations of the strongest influence, that the desire that my parliamentary conduct should meet your approval is more an impulse of my affections than the result of political considerations.

It is therefore with some solicitude I submit for your judgment the resolutions I lately moved in the Assembly, and the speech introducing them.

That they should have been the object of vituperation on the part of my political opponents furnishes neither matter of surprise nor occasion for doubting the soundness of my views.—The leaders of the (so called) liberal party, ought indeed, in consistency with their own principles, to have supported the resolutions; but we have not reached this period of our political history now to learn, that professions sowed with profuse abundance, may yield a scanty harvest.

I am, however, desirous, that neither the objects I propose nor the motives that animate me should be misapprehended by my friends, or by the disinterested and intelligent among the population of the Province.

Let it be not forgotten that you are not, nor am I, answerable for the extremes to which the Province has been driven in its political career.

In the winter of 1843, you elected your Representatives on principles of moderation opposed to ultra party views; and until the election of 1847, my Colleagues in the Government, and myself, sought, as far as the violence of our opponents would permit, to effect such an union of parties as would have stayed the surges of political strife. Lord Falkland and his Council in that period found no difficulty in reconciling the apparent incongruity of an independent Governor and a Council responsible to the Representatives of the People. His high sense of honor, inflexible integrity, and unwavering veracity, were a safe-guard against the violation of either public or private rights. His respect for the position of his Council left them free to meet the obligations which their responsibility to the people imposed.

But after what has passed in the last two years, I abandon as impossible any salutary controul in the future, by either Lieutenant Governor or Colonial Secretary, over our local affairs; and as attempts to restore that controul would inevitably lead to struggles endangering the peace of the country and the Colonial relation, I judge it to be an imperative duty to avert those consequences by removing their occasion.

The necessity that this surrender should be formally claimed by our Legislature, and acknowledged by the Imperial Government, is enhanced by the nature of the British system of administration, which places the nominal and the real powers of Government in different hands,—giving to a Governor, without whose name scarcely an act of administration can be performed, plausible occasions to usurp an *actual* authority inconsistent with the constitutional rights of the people.

That necessity, had it been questionable before, has now, however, been made certain by the character of the opposition which the leaders of the liberal party presented to these resolutions: for if the opinions they propounded in the Assembly be correct, the self-government in its local affairs conceded to Nova Scotia is but a fraudulent deception—which, having helped a few individuals to power, offers, for the future, nothing but uncertainty and contention.

The power of the veto on acts of Legislation, and the power of dissolution were claimed as *substantial and legitimate* functions of the Lieutenant Governor's office, in opposition to my assertion that in our local affairs they were but lodged with the Lieutenant Governor *ceremonially* to be exercised *substantially* by his Executive Council; and to avoid one dilemma, another was encountered when it was affirmed that the Lieutenant Governor's assent was necessary before a measure of government could be introduced into the Assembly.

Here, then, is the issue between those who opposed and those who supported my resolutions. The country must judge.

It was charged that the resolutions tended to weaken the Colonial connection. I think, if accepted here and in England in the right spirit, they will produce an opposite result, by removing occasions of future intrigue and contention, of which the Lieut. Governor would be the centre. If, however, these resolutions but propound what is essential for self-government, let not those who claim the credit of that system, accuse me of wrong, if I but hold them to the consistent developement of their own principles.