

## SESSIONAL PAPER No. 18

Mackay, and took Post at St. John's ; the Indians shewed as much Backwardness as the Canadian Peasantry.

The Consternation in the Towns and Country was great and universal, every Individual seemed to feel our present impotent Situation, for tho' in no Danger of internal Commotions, we are equally unprepared for Attack or Defence ; Not six hundred Rank & File fit for Duty upon the whole Extent of this great River, not an armed Vessel, no Place of Strength ; the ancient Provincial Force enervated and broke to Pieces ; all Subordination upset, and the Minds of the People poisoned by the same Hypocrisy and Lies practised with so much Success in the other Provinces, and which their Emissaries and Friends here have spread abroad with great Art and Diligence ; had it not been for those few Troops, three hundred Rebels might have procured all the Arms, Ammunition, and Provisions, this Province can afford, and have kept Post at St. John's with great Security.

We are at present fortifying a Post there and at Oswegatchie, tho' there are other Avenues into the Province, I hope the above may be made sufficiently strong to resist any sudden Attack of this Sort ; a considerable Force here might not only secure ourselves, but assist General Gage in extinguishing the Flames of Rebellion in the other Provinces more speedily, I fear he has none to spare, and it may be too late in the year to have them from Europe, however I shall see what in our present Situation is further practicable for The King's Service.

Within these few Days the Canadians and Indians seem to return a little to their Senses, the Gentry and Clergy have been very useful upon this Occasion, and shewen great Fidelity and Warmth for His Majesty's Service, but both have lost much of their Influence over the People ; I propose trying to form a Militia, and if their Minds are favourably disposed, will raise a Battalion, upon the same Plan as the other Corps in America, as to Numbers and Expence, and were it established, I think, it might turn out of great public Utility ; but I have many Doubts whether I shall be able to succeed.

These Measures, that formerly would have been extremely popular, require at present a great Degree of Caution and Circumspection ; so much have the Minds of the People been tainted by the Cabals and Intrigues, I have from time to time given Your Lordship some Information of, I am as yet uncertain whether I shall find it advisable to proceed in the aforementioned Undertaking ; to defame their King and treat him with Insolence and Disrespect, upon all Occasions to speak with the utmost Contempt of His Government, to forward Sedition and applaud Rebellion seem to be what too many of His British American Subjects in those Parts think their undoubted Right.

For my Part since my Return to this Province, I have seen good Cause to repent my having ever recommended the Habeas Corpus Act and English criminal Laws ; these Laws, now used as Arms against the