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ORANGE LODGES, CANADA.

COPIES of DESPATCHES addressed to the Governors  
of *Upper and Lower Canada* respecting ORANGE  
LODGES.

(*Mr. Home.*)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,  
16 August 1836.

ORANGE LODGES, CANADA.

RETURN to An ADDRESS of the Honourable The House of Commons,  
dated 28 July 1836;—for,

A COPY of any DESPATCHES addressed to the Governors of *Upper* and *Lower Canada* respecting ORANGE LODGES; the Date of Arrival of those Orders there; and the ANSWERS, if any, received from such Governors:— Also, a Copy of the ADDRESS of the House of Assembly of *Upper Canada* to the Governor respecting ORANGE LODGES, and his ANSWER thereto.

Colonial Department, Downing-street, }  
9 August 1836.

G. GREY.

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CIRCULAR TO THE COLONIES RESPECTING ORANGE LODGES.

COPY of a Circular DESPATCH, addressed by Lord *Glenelg* to the Governors of His Majesty's Colonial Possessions, dated Colonial-office 27th February 1836. (Forwarded to the Governor of Lower Canada and Lieutenant-governor of Upper Canada, by the Halifax Packet of the 3d of March 1836.)

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your information, the copy of a Resolution agreed to by The House of Commons on the 23d instant, on the subject of Orange Lodges, and other similar societies; together with a copy of the Answer which His Majesty was graciously pleased to return to the Address presented in pursuance of the above Resolution.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *Glenelg*.

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Mercurii, 24<sup>o</sup> die Februarii, 1836.

Resolved, That an humble Address be presented to His Majesty, praying that His Majesty will be graciously pleased to take such measures as to His Majesty may seem advisable, for the effectual discouragement of Orange Lodges, and generally of all political societies, excluding persons of a different religious faith, using secret signs and symbols, and acting by means of associated branches.

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Jovis, 25<sup>o</sup> die Februarii, 1836.

Answer to Address 23 February reported as follows:

*WILLIAM R.*

I WILLINGLY assent to the prayer of my faithful Commons, that I will be pleased to take such measures as may seem to me advisable for the effectual discouragement of Orange Lodges, and generally of all political societies, excluding persons of a different religious faith, using secret signs and symbols, and acting by means of associated branches.

It is my firm intention to discourage all such societies in my dominions, and I rely with confidence on the fidelity of my loyal subjects to support me in this determination.

*W. R.*

*Note.*—The date of the arrival of the above circular in the provinces of Upper and Lower Canada is not known, but the receipt of it was acknowledged by the Earl of Gosford upon the 17th of May, and by Sir F. Head on the 27th May 1836. No reply has been received from either province.

ADDRESS OF ASSEMBLY OF UPPER CANADA RESPECTING  
ORANGE LODGES.

The Address of the House of Assembly of Upper Canada to the Lieutenant-Governor, and his Reply thereto, relative to Orange Lodges, have not been officially transmitted to the Colonial Department; but the following Proceedings thereon have been extracted from the Votes of the Assembly, Session 1836.

4th April 1836.—Pursuant to the order of the day, the address to his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor for information on the law relating to public processions was read a third time and passed, and is as follows:

To his Excellency Sir Francis Bond Head, Knight Commander of the Royal Hanoverian Guelphic Order, and of the Prussian Military Order of Merit, Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of Upper Canada, &c. &c. &c.

May it please your Excellency,

WE, His Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of Upper Canada, in Provincial Parliament assembled, respectfully request that your Excellency will be pleased to direct to be laid before this House without delay the opinions of His Majesty's Attorney and Solicitor Generals how far the laws in force in this Province are calculated, if rigidly enforced, to put down public processions likely to endanger the public peace, and whether in their opinion it is necessary to pass a law to prohibit all processions having such a tendency; and that your Excellency will be pleased to inform the House whether the Government of this Province have taken, or determined to take, any steps to prevent or discourage public processions of Orange Societies, or to discourage the formation or continuance of such societies.

Commons House of Assembly, }  
4 March 1836. } (signed) *Marshall S. Bidwell,*  
Speaker.

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On the motion of Mr. Parke, seconded by Mr. M'Intosh, ordered, That Messrs Small and Wells be a Committee to wait upon his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, to know when he will be pleased to receive the address of this House, and to present the same.

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7 April 1836.—Mr Small, from the Committee to wait upon his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor with the address of this House on the subject of Orange Processions, reported delivering the same, and that his Excellency had been pleased to make thereto the following answer:

Gentlemen,

I herewith transmit to you, according to the request of the House of Assembly, the opinion of His Majesty's Attorney and Solicitor General, on the subject of Orange Processions.

The government of this province has neither taken, nor has it determined to take, any steps to prevent or discourage the formation or continuance of such societies.

I have no hesitation, however, in saying, that I consider all factious combinations as hostile to the real interests of this country; but unless they proceed to acts of violence or intimidation, I consider that a forced remedy might prove worse than the disease itself.

OPINION of His Majesty's Attorney and Solicitor General, on the subject of  
Orange Processions.

Toronto, 6 April 1836.

WE are of opinion that all "processions likely to endanger the public peace," and "all processions having such a tendency," are illegal, and may be suppressed by civil authority. Persons engaged in the processions of the description mentioned, are liable to be prosecuted for a misdemeanor. It may be sometimes difficult to determine what processions are, in themselves, illegal, or have a tendency to a breach of the peace, and it therefore must rest with the Legislature to decide how far it is expedient to pass a law to suppress public processions of every description. All which is respectfully submitted.

*Robert S. Jameson, Attorney-general.*  
*Christopher A. Hagerman, Solicitor-general.*

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