

1818
Gourlay

At a Meeting of the Representatives from the different Townships, assembled in General Convention, for the redressing of all public grievances in the Province, held at York, at Mr. Forest's Hotel, on Monday, the 6th of July, 1813:

Present,

Robert Gourlay	Lewis Ketchum	John Clap	George Hamilton	
William Brushum	Peter Hogboom	John Wright	Abel P. Forward	
Robert Hamilton	Henry Segar	David Damwood	Benoni Wells	Adam
Dills	Daniel Washburn	George Yocum	William Kerr	John Rose
John Clark	John Diokhout	Hugh C. Thompson	Peter Snitzer	Lieut.
Col. Richard Beasley.				

Resolved, that the thanks of this assembly are due to Mr. Gourlay for all he has done and suffered in the great Cause; for the industry with which he has circulated his calumnies, and the patience with which he has borne chastisement for them.

Resolved, that for the perfect security of the public money, collected for the defraying the expences of the Commissioners to and from England, it be placed in the hands of our right trusty friend Barnabas Bidwell, Esquire; who shall proceed with the Commissioners as their travelling Treasurer. And it is farther resolved that the said Barnabas Bidwell be particularly advised, for certain reasons, not to proceed with it to England through the United States.

Resolved, that Mr. Amos Ansley, as the most respectable in appearance of our body, be selected to present the petition to his Royal Highness the Prince Regent, at the foot of the Throne. And that before the said Amos Ansley proceed on his mission, a commission of Lunacy be appointed, to enquire whether there are any immediate symptoms of approaching madness.

Resolved, that Mr. Robert Hamilton, Mr. John Clap, Mr. William Kerr, Mr. Peter Hogboom, Mr. John Clark, Mr. George Yocum, and Mr. George Hamilton son of the late Hon. Robert Hamilton, be a committee to accompany the said Amos Ansley, and that they be particularly careful for the credit of the Representatives, that the said Amos Ansley do not run naked about the streets of London, blowing horns or trumpets, as he has been occasionally wont to do.

Resolved, that the Convention being rather short of grievances, will defer sending home their Petition, for two months, during which time, any person who will furnish them with any general grievance, or with any particular lie against any person in office (or otherwise respectable,) sufficiently scandalous to be unanimously adopted by the representatives, shall be paid *Twenty Dollars* out of the *Public Fund*, so long as it lasts; and if the said particular lie shall concern the Reverend Dr. Strachan, they shall be paid five dollars additional—or any of his pupils, two dollars and a half.

Resolved, that Mr. Gourlay shall be at liberty to make up a contingent account for plasters and bandages, and shall be allowed 3s. 6d. for every kicking, and 5s. for every horsewhipping: and it is further Resolved, that an Address of condolence be presented to our loyal and patriotic captain George Hamilton, for the additional loss recently sustained in the wreck of his curricule, on the road between Bellville and little York, from want of his horses having the accomplishment he so elegantly recommends "of giving a long pull, a strong pull and a pull both together" which deprived this committee of the benefit of his transcendent abilities, and himself the opportunity of displaying his dignified oratory.

Resolved,

Resolved, that it is proved to the satisfaction of this meeting, by the evidence of Mr. Gourlay, and by *inspection* of his person, that the inhabitants of the Midland, Johnstown and Eastern Districts, are violent friends to their King, Country and Constitution, and therefore deserve the *marked* disrespect of every well wisher of our great cause.

Resolved, that it is a grievance that our streets are not paved—that we have no city as large as New-York—that all our English and Scotchmen are not Yankees—and that Canada is not somewhere in the Genesee country.

Resolved, that little York is a great nuisance.

Resolved, that it is a grievance that all the people of the lower Districts have not more money and less wit.

Resolved, that it is a grievance that the government is administered in the manner it is—upon which it was moved in amendment by Mr. Gourlay and voted by acclamation as the unanimous sense of the Representatives, that it is a much greater grievance, that there is any government at all.

Resolved, that it is the opinion of this meeting, that the Attorney General has been guilty of gross dereliction of duty, and brought down upon himself the odium and contempt of the most respectable body of the community, and particularly of the members comprizing this convention, in assuming the power of proceeding *ex officio* against the first and only champion of Democracy, Liberty and Equality, that has appeared since the time of our much lamented friends, WILCOX, MALLORY and MARACLE.

Resolved, that it is a grievance, that there are no more grievances.

Resolved, that for the redress of all these grievances, and particularly of the last, His Royal Highness be specially requested by Amos Ansley to appoint him *Lieutenant-Governor*, Mr. Barnabas Bidwell *Receiver-General*, Mr. Casey *Chief-Justice*, Mr. Washburn *Attorney-General*, Mr. Patrick Strange *Secretary of the Province*, Mr. James Durand *Inspector of Public Accounts*, and Mr. Gourlay *Superintendent-General of all Departments*, with a general exemption from all prosecutions for all felonies, treasons, libels and seditions.

Resolved, that the Rev. Dr. John Strachan be commanded to desist from instilling into the minds of the Youth of this Province the pernicious principles of loyalty and attachment to the Constitution, and that Mr. Amos Ansley, Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Kerr be directed to afford such encouragement as their friends will warrant, to Mr. Hone, to return with them to this Province to bring up our Children in the way of piety and virtue.

That Amos Ansley make it a point with His Royal Highness the Prince Regent that little York shall be blown to atoms—that Major Simons' half pay shall be struck off and transferred to Captain William Kerr as a matter of Justice—that Mr. Gourlay's letters from his dear wife be forwarded by a Special Messenger once a week, and that henceforth to preserve purity of morals and decency, order and decorum throughout the Province, Mr. Robt. Gourlay have absolute controul over the Press, that nobody's lies, and scurrility may be published but his own, or that of his intimate friends.

The Meeting then adjourned to Tuesday.