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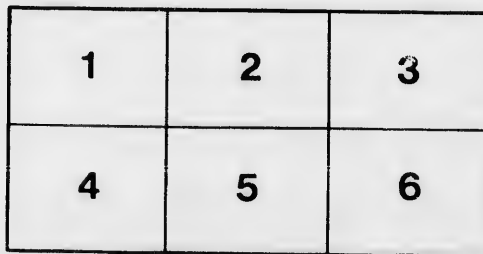
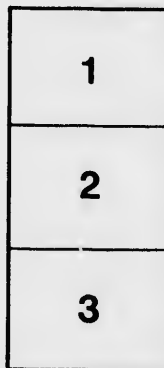
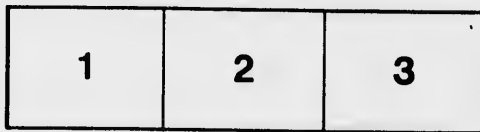
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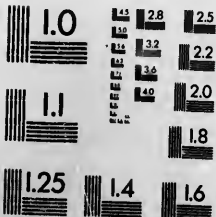
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Speech of JOHN WILLSON, Esq., of Wentworth, delivered in the House of Assembly, on Monday Evening, the 1st of March, 1830, on Mr. FOTHERGILL'S motion for sending Three Commissions to England to procure a "Redress of Grievances."—[From the Courier, March 13, 1830.]

After Mr. Bidwell had delivered himself of some of his Democratic spleen against the British Government, &c.

Mr. WILLSON, of Wentworth, rose and said—When, Sir, we hear orations so numerous, against such a serious and unpunished levelling agent as the Government of our Country, it becomes necessary for us to bestow the most dispassionate and attentive consideration to the subject; lest, under the influence of those prejudices, and of that host of influences which cannot be sustained, we make charges which do not render ourselves altogether ridiculous—the eyes of that Government to which we are about to make our appeal.

Now, said Mr. Willson, after listening to the flowing numbers and the glowing eloquence of the Hon. Member, (Mr. Fothergill's) eloquent speech, and his long list of grievances, I, (Mr. W.) must say that he could not yet bring his mind to acquiesce in all the positions laid on, or all the precedents laid down by the Hon. member's committee. In those which were those that we ought to overturn the first place, he tells us that "the Executive while that Executive influence which is exercised over the Legislative Council." What Executive influence, (said Mr. W.) what object can exercise over the Council, or what object can butler of those branches of our Government have that which we have ourselves—the common good of the country.

The Hon. Gent. next tells us, that when there is a higher Legislature over a lesser one, the liberty of the latter "is seeming, not real." This property, (said Mr. W.) requires some elucidation. When we speak of independent kingdoms, like Greece and Egypt, and independent States, like France and Britain, were subjugated by the Romans, and brought under the conquerors power, their liberties with regard to the exercise of their own Government, were not only seemingly, but really, not real. But will that Hon. Gent. or any other Gent. tell me that the people of the British Colonies, and this Colony in particular, have no "real liberty," because the Imperial Legislature is paramount to our own? Or will he tell me that the people of the United States have no "real liberty," because they have a higher Legislature over their several subordinate State Legislatures? Do not the people of those States, on the contrary, look upon the prior national Legislature as the great guardian of their liberties, and call it the mother of their laws? And yet do they not at the same time imagine that their liberties "are real," and "not seeming?"

The Hon. Gent. next complains that many of our "bills are thrown out by the Legislative Council" which circumstance he (Mr. W.) truly believes, which could be one of the greatest blessings which could be conferred on the country. For were all the bills which went through the House of Assembly to be self contradictions, their opponents, and their opponents would rise up in open rebellion against them. He, therefore, thought it an evidence of the wisdom of the Legislative Council, to pick out those bills, and to throw those which had any of these qualities, and to throw those which were treacherous or mischievous under their table. As to the Hon. Gent. read from Mr. Fox's Speech, (said Mr. W.) could any say, the members of that body were appointed for life now, and therefore were quite so independent as if they were elected for life, and he is inclined to think they were rather more so.

The Hon. Member for Durham next shows up what he calls the "judiciary" grievance; but he (Mr. W.) would like to know what alteration was wanted just now in that quarter? Was not the Bench now occupied by three Gentlemen of first professional distinction, of superior talents, and of unimpeached integrity, who were all in the prime of life, and, therefore, not likely soon to be added to the list of pensioned and retired Judges? Next, (said Mr. W.) we have the "Post-Office" grievance, which the Hon. member for Durham contends, ought to be placed under the countenance of the Provincial Legislature; and so far he (Mr. W.) was annually sent to England, amounting to £10,000; he (Mr. W.) did not agree with that Gent. for £1000, he (Mr. W.) did not think there were any grounds for placing it on the list of "grievances."

The Gent. next expresses his doubts whether the "Wax-Losses" will be paid unless some agents are sent home to attend to it; an idea, which he (Mr. W.) conceived to be altogether chimerical, because W. returned to be accompanied by a communication from the Government, would answer every purpose. The next grievance on the list, (said Mr.

W.) are the "Militia lands," and the "settlement of the fortunate man in his own District. He proposes, that the noble gentry should be paid out of the Militia Lands, Two Thousand Dollars a piece, or Twenty Thousand Dollars for the whole batch of Ambassadors, have ever been rejected. And with respect to the latter, he (Mr. W.) thought that to do away with the settlement duties, and not to countenance a gross and unbecoming mode of proceeding, he would have a real open road open to the maddest of folly.

The Hon. member's next grievance, which appeared to be the most grievous of all, was the Canada Company's grievance, which he called a "Scotch Hangout." (Mr. W.) was afraid that if there were any "hangout" at all in it, it was a "hangout" of the Company themselves, and not to the country. They had bought our wild lands, and now hold them up at a good round price, and there certainly could be no "hangout" in that.

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The "Crown and Clergy Reserve" grievance was the next item in the Hon. member's list; but he (Mr. W.) thought that as the wild lands were in the hands of the Hon. member, those wishes were quite as likely to be attended to now as if a deputy were sent to England about it. Next, (said Mr. W.) we come to a grievance, which is backed up by all the eloquence of the Hon. Speaker—this is the Grievance of the Hon. member's list; but he (Mr. W.) thought that as the wild lands were in the hands of the Hon. member, those wishes were quite as likely to be attended to now as if a deputy were sent to England about it.

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