

CIRCULAR.

Safety Committee Room, 18th August, 1839.

GLORIOUS NEWS FOR THE PATRIOTS.

THE Chancellor of the Exchequer recently declared in the House of Commons, in England, that the Canadian Revolution had already cost Great Britain upwards of Ten Millions of Dollars, and remarked that a continuance of the expense of keeping up so large a Military Establishment in those Colonies, could not long be borne.

Daniel O'Connell and Mr. Leader, the great advocates for liberty, ably defended the Lower Canadians in the British House of Commons, and sustained the revolting party in the course they have taken.

John G. Parker, and seven other leading Upper Canada Patriots, who were banished by Governor Arthur, have been liberated in England, and are now on their return home.

Instructions have been given by the Ministry in England, for the immediate liberation of all the Patriot Prisoners, now in custody of the authorities in the Canadas.

Sir John Colborne has recently been dismissed from the office of Governor General of the Canadas, and recalled to England in consequence of the severity with which he uniformly treated the French Canadians, engaged in the Revolution.

Mr. Charles Buller, Secretary to Lord Durham, (while the latter was discharging the duties of Governor General of the North American Colonies) and Member of the House of Commons, strongly censured Governor Arthur, for executing those brave Patriots, Lount and Matthews, and unhesitatingly told the Prime Minister, that he Governor Arthur, had made *false* representations relative to Canadian affairs, and particularly in stating the number who signed a Petition to have the lives of Lount and Matthews spared.

It is ascertained for a certainty, that Governor Arthur's conduct in relation to the cruel treatment of Patriot Prisoners and suspected persons, is disapproved of in England, and it is confidently expected that he will soon be dismissed and follow Governor Colborne.

The Government of Great Britain have approved of the decision of the Lower Canadian Judges, who were suspended from office by Governor Colborne, for interfering with his Military Law, and are again in office to see that justice is done to the oppressed!!

FELLOW PATRIOTS:—The Committee of Safety have much pleasure in communicating to the friends of freedom the above facts recently received from unquestionable authority, which cannot fail to dispel the dark cloud which has for months past, cast a solemn gloom over the Patriot cause.

It is quite clear that the British Government are already tired of the expense of retaining the Canadas at the point of the bayonet, as they have done for the last eighteen months. The enormous amount of doing so, has to be borne by the people in England, or they at once lose those Colonies; and it is evident that the six millions of dollars yearly required to maintain a standing army for that purpose, has its proper influence with *Queen Victoria's* advisers, who will pause before they increase the excitement in England, already bordering on a state of Revolution, by an additional tax, which must be resorted to, as mentioned by the Chancellor, should the Canadas be retained by the Queen.

The Committee are without proof that the British Ministry *secretly* desire to have these Colonies *rescued* from under their control, but they are in possession of facts that fully justify a conscientious belief that such *is* really the case.

The frankness of the Chancellor of the Exchequer in stating that the Canadas could not long be held by Great Britain, under such heavy yearly expense. The open manner Messrs. O'Connell and Leader, both in the confidence of the Ministry, advocates in the House of Commons the course pursued by the Lower Canadians. The certain dismissal of Governor Colborne, in consequence of ill-treating the French Canadians, suspected of being concerned in the Rebellion. The strong language made use of in the House of Commons, by Mr. Charles Buller, relative to Governor Arthur's conduct in executing Lount and Matthews. The daily censure heaped upon the latter functionary by the authorities in England, for the tyranny which has characterized all his past acts, (whenever he had Patriot Prisoners in his power.) The liberation of that useful and leading Patriot, John G. Parker, and others; the restoring to office of the Lower Canadian Judges, dismissed by Governor Colborne, for allowing bail to Patriot Prisoner's confined under Sir John's Martial Law; the attention paid to Lord Durham's official report in England, (which is most unquestionably in favour of the discontented in the Canadas,) with many other similar facts, all go to strengthen the Committee in their well-grounded belief, that whatever those who wield the power in Great Britain may openly say relative to holding the Canadas, they very prudently, and with an eye to their alarming troubles at home, secretly desire to rid themselves of these expensive Colonies, the assertion of all the tory tyrants therein to the contrary notwithstanding.

In pursuing this subject a little further, the Committee beg leave to remark, that it is well known in Great Britain, that full nineteen twentieths of an IMMENSE Lower Canadian population are hostile to their present Government, and in favour of a Revolution; and it is equally well known, by the authorities in England, that those Canadians have only been deterred from a general insurrection, and putting down the hired Soldiery and Loyalists, by a knowledge that should they make another attempt for liberty, and fail to overpower the Soldiers and Loyalists, for want of arms, Governor Colborne would certainly pursue the same horrid butchery of men, women and children, and the destruction of *whole* villages by fire, that characterized his proceedings in the first and second outbreak. The same, to a certain extent, will equally apply to Governor Arthur's conduct in Upper Canada. If the British Ministry were therefore really determined to hold those Provinces at the point of the bayonet, as they have thus far done, is it reasonable to suppose that they would under any circumstances withdraw the very men from the Government of the Canadas, who it is notorious have (by their *cruel* acts, and threatenings to punish more severely in the future,) kept a *great* number of the less informed and timid Patriots in both Provinces, from fulfilling the solemn pledges given to the United States Patriots, (who went from their homes to assist in giving them freedom,) in coming to their assistance according to expectation, in the hour of danger; thereby causing every *defeat* the Patriots have thus far met with.

The embarrassment which the fearless Patriots have had to contend with by such weakness on the part of their timid fellow citizens in the Canadas, will now be effectually removed by the departure of Governor Colborne from Lower Canada, and the daily expected dismissal of Governor Arthur in the Upper Province, and the difficulty that so many real friends have so long laboured under for want of arms, can be easily overcome by throwing into the hands of those who *will use them* a sufficient quantity to make them useful.

Taking a candid view of the whole of the preceding truths, and without giving them any improper colouring, they certainly do forebode prospects cheering to those who still nobly desire to see the Canadas freed from bondage, and who by now coming forward manfully will accomplish an object worthy and creditable to the name of *freemen*, and feeling assured that the reorganization of a new Society, under such favourable circumstances, will hasten on a crisis so much desired by thousands, yea millions, and with a view of keeping up a high state of excitement and alarm in the Canadas so essentially necessary for the furtherance of that cause. The Committee have thought it advisable to issue Circular Letters, setting forth their views upon the important subject, and have dispatched several of their own members to distribute them *confidentially*, in different directions, with further authority to form, while on their present tour, Societies on our own, and the Canadian frontier, agreeable to the accompanying instructions, which, if rigidly observed, will effectually baffle the *most sagacious* to ascertain even of the formation of a new Secret Society, or subsequent movements, in time to prevent successful operations.

As soon as the Societies can be properly formed, (which owing to the extent of territory on both frontiers, and the extreme difficulty and caution necessary to be observed in approaching the Canadian shores, and passing through those Provinces unsuspected, will take some *considerable* time,) notice will be given relative to future proceedings, in the mean time the Committee do earnestly beg and entreat that no public show will be made, no expressions heard to escape the lips of any person, calculated to excite suspicion among those who do not feel disposed to heartily unite in the glorious cause; but let all appear as calm and silent as the grave (except nightly meetings,) till the proper hour shall arrive.

With reference to future movements, the Committee will merely now remark that whatever course they may hereafter decide on pursuing in this matter, it now strikes them very forcibly that as there are many places on the Canadian frontier, where landing can be made without coming in direct contact with a superior British force, and hundreds of other places where little or no force is kept, particularly in the Upper Province, a very successful invasion can be for years carried on, if necessary, by the joint co-operation of the friends in the Canadas, affording as the latter can, at all times, the most correct and useful information. While there continues so great a military force in the Canadas, and while the authorities there continue in the belief that their government across the Atlantic desire them to defend these Provinces, it will not be advisable that any place taken possession of by the Patriots in those Colonies, shall for the present be permanently held.

The example which the tyrants of Great Britain first set our Forefathers in the Revolutionary War of 1776, followed up by Colonel MacNabb and Captain Drew in the Canadian Revolution of 1837, can be speedily accomplished on landing, and the places evacuated before any great combination of force can be brought to bear against the Patriots. The insulting manner which the officials, backed up by other Loyalists, have, time after time, exposed the lives of hundreds of American citizens, by discharging small arms at our Steam Boats and Schooners in passing (on their regular and lawful business,) by those hot-beds of Torvism, Brockville, Prescott, and other places on the Canadian shores calls loudly for merited chastisement.

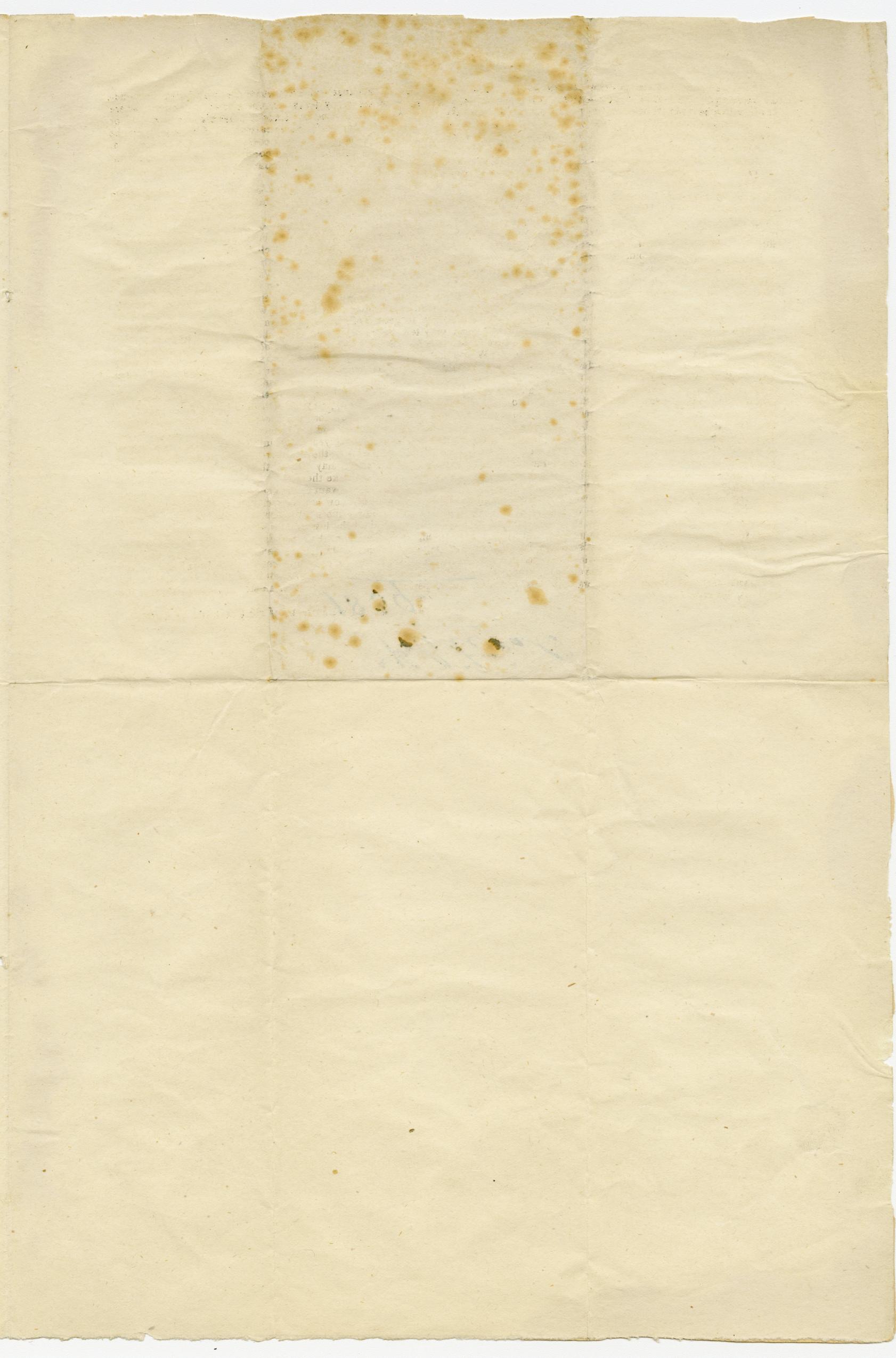
We shall no doubt be told, and very likely too by our own government, that we are engaged in a cause calculated to create ill feeling between Great Britain and the United States, that may ultimately bring on a National War between those two powers. Anticipating such an objection by some few citizens against the Patriot cause, the Committee, in reply, do not hesitate to say, that Great Britain with her alarming difficulties at home, will not venture a war with the United States Government, in consequence of citizens of the latter taking possession of a territory four thousand miles from England, which costs the latter millions of dollars yearly more than its worth, and which they no doubt wish to get rid of; but suppose on the other hand, that Queen Victoria should be advised to declare war against Uncle Sam, pray tell us, ye wise men, what she would gain by such a step. The Committee say, *nothing whatever*. What then would she lose?—All her North American Colonies. Besides, would not a war firmly unite the Southern and Northern States? Would not the question relative to Maine, and other disputes, be finally settled in less than a month after a declaration of war? Would the Canadas remain a day under Great Britain? Nay;—but why dwell on this subject?—there is no danger, if danger it can be called, of such being the case.

Shall we then, the offspring of those brave Patriots, whose blood flowed so copiously in freeing themselves from the same oppressive and galling yoke of tyranny that the Canadians are groaning under, be prevented from following in the footsteps of our illustrious ancestors. Let us, as a people who know the blessings of freedom, show that the descendants of those who taught Great Britain to be just to the now United States in 1776, will teach Miss Victoria and her government, to be also just to the Canadas, labouring under similar oppression that we once did, and that should it take years, and millions of dollars, and oceans of blood, those suffering colonies shall yet be free, and the guilty officials who have in the least participated in the murdering of American or Canadian citizens, or in the capturing, trial or execution of a Patriot, may yet in their turn have to enter upon the scaffold for execution, should justice, in a more summary way, not sooner overtake them.

It will, no doubt, be gratifying to the friends of freedom, to know that there is no want of the necessary means to carry on an extensive invasion, should Great Britain drive us to that alternative, and as we can now safely depend on considerable assistance from the Canadas. The Committee look forward at no very distant period, to see those Provinces a second Texas, and when that day arrives, be it sooner or later, the names of those registered, as directed by the instructions of this Committee, and continue from under the new Society to the end, will be sure of receiving such rewards as their services may justly entitle them.

In taking leave of you, Fellow Citizens and Patriots, for a while, the Committee think they have only to call your thoughts for a moment to past events, to convince you that our future prospects to glorious honours and wealth on the one hand, or the total ruin, defeat and disgrace on the other, depends upon a well organized Society, who to a man must, under the most trying circumstances, make strict secrecy, watchfulness, patience, order, perseverance, brotherly love, a determination to support the by-laws, his constant watchword.

J. L. QUINN, Chairman of the Committee of Safety.



1839
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