

Montreal in 1843, certain circumstances caused the Legislature to adopt a migratory system by which Parliament was to sit alternately four years at Toronto and four years at Quebec.

5. The inconvenience of this arrangement has been strongly felt. It is attended by great expense, and by a periodical suspension of public business in every office. At the same time it is impossible to deny that it has done good; prejudices have been softened and misconceptions removed by it.

6. In the last session, however, the Legislative Assembly asserted the necessity of a fixed Seat of Government by a Resolution of their own, and a vote was carried in favor of Quebec. When the question of providing money for the erection of the public buildings at Quebec came up, a clause appropriating £50,000 for that purpose was struck out of the supplies by the Legislative Council, and the whole supply bill had to be introduced again in the Lower House. Practically, therefore, the main question at the commencement of this session remained yet undecided.

7. Yet my own conviction was, and is, that the time has arrived when the matter ought to be definitely settled. To keep it open is to maintain in full flow a constant source of local bitterness and sectional animosity, which by a little management can always be turned against the Government of the day. Nor is this the worst consequence of its unsettled condition. If the Province of Canada is to remain one, it is essential that its Seat of Government should be fixed and recognized by all.

8. There can be no doubt that Her Majesty's prerogative enables her to summon the Parliament wherever she may please; but Her Majesty, with a desire to meet the wishes of the people of *Canada*, has in practice generally left the matter to be determined by those most immediately interested therein.

9. It now appears to a majority of both branches of the Legislature that the question is one not likely to be arranged satisfactorily by themselves. They do not, I conceive, by their present addresses, in any way renounce or disclaim their own capacity for self-government, nor do they, by referring this question to the Queen, intend to establish a principle in any way inconsistent with the free and unimpeded action of Parliamentary responsibility in the Colony.

10. The matter itself is one of exceptional character. Nothing but this consideration and a strong conviction that its speedy settlement is of the utmost importance, would induce me to recommend that so soon as money necessary for erecting the public buildings at the spot which Her Majesty may select, shall have been placed at her disposal, the prayer of these addresses should be complied with.

11. Under any circumstances I apprehend that the Legislature and public officers will, in 1859, have to be removed again to *Quebec*, according to the present arrangement. What is asked of the Queen is, to select a site at which in the meantime fit and suitable buildings may be erected for the establishment of the permanent Legislative capital of *Canada*.

12. In order to lay fully before the Queen the claims of the several places