

“Mr. Simonds,

“I am commanded by His Excellency to assure you that he is so fully sensible of your zeal for the public service, and of your sufficiency to execute the duties of the high office to which you have been elected by the House of Assembly, that he doth most readily approve of their choice, and allow and confirm you to be their Speaker.”

Then the Speaker of the Assembly said:—

“May it please Your Excellency,

“I submit with due humility to Your Excellency’s pleasure, and it now becomes my duty, on behalf of the Assembly, to demand, by humble Petition, that they have all their ancient and undoubted rights and privileges, especially freedom of speech, freedom from arrest, access to Your Excellency whenever the Public Service may require it, and that the most favorable construction be put upon all their proceedings; and on my own behalf, I have to entreat that any error of mine may not be imputed to the Assembly.”

Then the President of the House said:—

“Mr. Speaker,

“His Excellency hath the utmost confidence in the loyalty and attachment of this House of Assembly to Her Majesty’s person and government, and in the wisdom, temper and prudence which will accompany all their proceedings, and he doth most readily and willingly grant and allow them all their privileges in as full and ample a manner as they have at any time heretofore been granted and allowed.

“With respect to yourself, Sir, though His Excellency is sensible that you do not stand in need of such an assurance, His Excellency will ever put the most favorable construction on your words and actions.”

Then His Excellency was pleased to open the Session by the following Speech to both Houses:—

Mr. President and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council,

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,

THE loss which the Nation has sustained in the death of His late Majesty WILLIAM THE FOURTH, of *revered memory*, has been followed by an exhibition of national feeling, from which every loyal subject in our widely extended Colonial Empire will not fail to derive both consolation and satisfaction. I refer to that unequivocal manifestation of deep rooted veneration for its ancient Monarchical Institutions which simultaneously burst forth in expressions of the most ardent loyalty from every part of the Mother Country, upon the occasion of the accession of Her Majesty Queen VICTORIA to the Throne of these Realms. That this enthusiastic loyalty found an echo in the breasts of the inhabitants of this Province is my most cheering persuasion—the more especially, as the particular object for which I have deemed it my duty to call you together, at this early period, is to invite your attention to the lamentable state to which the treasonable and rebellious proceedings of a certain portion of its deluded inhabitants, have reduced the neighbouring Province of Lower Canada. The disaffected, having availed themselves of a season of the year when succours from the Mother Country are believed to be excluded by the rigour of the climate, it appears
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