

Rupert's Land and the North-Western Territory.

2. Address.

To the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty.

Most Gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Senate and Commons of the Dominion of Canada in Parliament assembled, humbly approach your Majesty for the purpose of representing:—

That, during the first session of the first Parliament of this Dominion, we adopted an Address to your Majesty, praying that your Majesty would be graciously pleased, by and with the advice of your Majesty's Most Honorable Privy Council under the provisions of the 146th Section of "*The British North America Act, 1867*," and on the terms specified in that Address, to unite Rupert's Land and the North-West Territory with this Dominion, and to grant to the Parliament of Canada authority to legislate for their future welfare and good government, and assuring your Majesty of the willingness of the Parliament of Canada to assume the duties and obligations of Government and legislation as regards those territories.

That our joint Address was duly laid at the foot of the Throne, and that your Majesty, by despatch from the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the Governor General of Canada, under date of the 23rd April, 1868, signified your Majesty's willingness to comply with the prayer of the said Address, but that your Majesty was advised that the requisite powers of government and legislation could not, consistently with the existing charter of the Hudson's Bay Company, be transferred to Canada without an Act of Parliament, which Act was subsequently passed by the Imperial Parliament, and received your Majesty's assent on the 31st July, 1868.

That by a despatch dated 8th August, 1868, from the Honorable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, the Governor General was informed that in pursuance of the powers conferred by the Act for the surrender of the Hudson's Bay territories to your Majesty he proposed to enter into negotiations with the company as to the terms of such surrender, whereupon, under authority of an Order of the Governor-General in Council of the 1st October 1868, the Honorable Sir George Et. Cartier, Baronet, and the Honorable William MacDougall, C.B., were appointed a delegation to England to arrange the terms for the acquisition by Canada of Rupert's Land, and by another Order in Council of the same date, were authorized to arrange for the admission of the North West Territory into union with Canada either with or without Rupert's Land, as might be found practicable and expedient.

That the delegates proceeded on their mission to England, and entered into negotiations with his Grace the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos, then Secretary of State for the Colonies, and afterwards with the Right Honorable Earl Granville, his successor in office, for the acquisition by Canada of the territorial and other rights claimed by the Hudson's Bay Company in Rupert's Land, and in any other part of British North America not comprised in Rupert's Land, Canada