

Confident therefore that Parliament will fully investigate a matter of so great importance to the honour and interest of the nation, we will enter on the subject of the present government of the province of Quebec, with that respect which is due to those we address, and with that firmness which the grievances complained of cannot but excite and justify.

The province of Quebec was annexed to the British empire by the treaty of Paris in the year 1763, when the inhabitants thereof became subject to the duty of allegiance, and entitled to protection ; and to a participation of all privileges as British subjects.

His Majesty's gracious intentions for the security, happiness, and prosperity of the inhabitants of that newly-acquired province, were fully set forth in his royal proclamation, bearing date the 7th of October 1763, in the following words :