

ADDRESS TO THE QUEEN

SETTING FORTH THE CLAIMS OF OTTAWA

(See ante pp. 28, 29)

TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

Most Gracious Sovereign.

We Your Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects of the City of Ottawa in the Province of Canada beg leave to approach the foot of the Throne with assurances of our loyalty and fidelity to the Crown of Great Britain, and of our devoted attachment to the person of Your Majesty.

We have approached the Throne on the present occasion, at the suggestion of your Majesty's Representative in Canada, to lay before our Sovereign, the claims of the City of Ottawa for selection as the future Capital for this growing Province.

Since the union of Upper and Lower Canada in the year 1840, the subject of the adoption of a permanent site for the seat of Government has continuously agitated the public mind, and has annually given rise to excited and protracted debates in the Legislature of the country, gradually developing bitter feelings of jealousy in the two sections of the Province and at times almost threatening a dissolution of the Union.

To avoid for the future an agitation so injurious to our best interests, the present Provincial Parliament have, with the concurrence of the Government, wisely resolved to refer to the judgment of our Sovereign the decision of a question that they themselves have in vain endeavoured to settle, and we beg to assure your Majesty that this judicious course is approved by a very large majority of the people of the two Canadas; convinced as they are, that in the discharge of so onerous a task, your Majesty will recognize the important bearing it will have upon the future greatness of this country, in cementing more firmly the Union of Upper and Lower Canada, in extinguishing those national jealousies that have for years past mutually existed, and in developing the illimitable resources of both sections of the Province.