

Veneris, 17^o die Maii;

ANNO 13^o VICTORIÆ REGINÆ, 1850.

Mr. Lacoste
takes his seat.

LOUIS LACOSTE, Esquire, Member for the County of *Chambly*, having previously taken the oath according to Law, and subscribed before the Commissioners the Roll containing the same, took his seat in the House.

Report of Li-
brarian.

Mr. Speaker communicated to the House, a Report received from the Librarian, of the present state of the Library of the House, pursuant to a Standing Order of the 19th June, 1841.

Appendix (B.)

For the said Report, see Appendix (B.)

Correspon-
dence on the
subject of the
destruction of
the Library.

Mr. Speaker informed the House, That, pursuant to the directions conveyed to him by the House last Session, he had caused Circular letters to be addressed to the Speakers of both Houses of the Imperial Parliament, and of the several Colonial Legislatures in *North America* and the *West Indies*, and to the Presiding Officers of the Houses of Congress, and of certain contiguous States of the *American Union*, communicating intelligence of the loss sustained by the Province in the destruction of its Parliamentary Libraries, and soliciting their generous assistance in the efforts making to replace them; and that he had received from several of the Gentlemen addressed, replies, expressive of their sympathy at the destruction of our valuable Libraries, and their entire willingness to respond to the appeal which had been made on behalf of the re-construction of the same.

He then communicated to the House the Correspondence referred to, and which is as followeth:

The Speaker's
Circular letter.

Montreal, Canada, 3rd July, 1849.

Sir,—You have doubtless been informed, through the ordinary channels of intelligence, of the disastrous loss which the Legislature and People of this Province have sustained, in the total destruction, by fire, of the Buildings in which the sittings of the Provincial Parliament were held, by a riotous assemblage, on the 25th of April last.

Of the many deplorable consequences which have resulted from this outrage, the entire destruction of the valuable Libraries attached to the two Houses of the Legislature, and which contained in all about 25,000 volumes, may be reckoned as among the greatest. In this instance, especially, the loss has fallen not merely upon the Parliament itself, but generally upon the people of the Province, who, by the liberality of the Members of both Houses, were permitted access to the Books, in default of other opportunities for literary gratification and research, there being no other Libraries in *Canada*, of any magnitude, to which the Public were admitted.

In the Session of Parliament which has recently terminated, a general anxiety was manifested among Members, that efforts should be made to replace the collection as soon as practicable.

The existing state of the Provincial Finances, however, not warranting, for the present, any considerable outlay on this behalf, our efforts for the reconstruction of the Library are unavoidably postponed until another year, when it is in contemplation to establish one Joint Library for both Houses of the Legislature, to which there is no doubt the Public will be as freely admitted as heretofore.

Meanwhile, as it has been thought that much sympathy would be entertained, both on this Continent and in the United Kingdom, for the calamitous event which has occasioned so grievous a deprivation to the People of *Canada*, I have been empowered by the Legislative Assembly to communicate officially with the principal Representative Bodies in *America*

and *England*, acquainting them of the extent of our loss, and soliciting their generous assistance in our endeavours to replace the Library, by sending us copies of such of their Journals, Statutes, or other printed documents as could be spared, to be deposited therein.

I shall therefore esteem it a great favor if you will kindly aid our undertaking by obtaining for us a copy of such works, whether official publications or otherwise, as you might think would prove desirable acquisitions, and could conveniently send. In so doing, you would be conferring an obligation upon the Canadian Public, which it would at all times afford them the highest gratification to reciprocate. Any expense connected with this, we would of course cheerfully defray, and should, at the same time, remain largely your debtors for any such friendly donations.

I have the honor to subscribe myself, with the highest consideration,

Sir,
Your most obedient humble Servant,
(Signed.) A. N. MORIN,
Speaker.

Charlotte Town, Prince Edward Island,
16th July, 1849.

Letter from the
Speaker of the
Legislative
Council of
Prince Edward
Island.

Sir,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 3rd instant, requesting me to aid in obtaining for the Legislature of *Canada*, copies of such works, whether official publications or otherwise, as may prove desirable acquisitions in assisting to supply the loss which the Legislature and People of *Canada* have sustained from the destruction of the Libraries attached to the two Houses of the Legislature, by a riotous assemblage on the 25th of April last; and, whilst expressing my detestation of the crime and deploring its consequences, I beg to assure you of my readiness to aid in the praiseworthy effort now being made by the Canadian Parliament to replace the collection destroyed; and I feel justified in asserting that the Legislative Council of this Island will be found most willing to contribute in the way you desire, but that Body not being now in Session, I do not feel warranted in taking any steps in the matter, until I shall have an opportunity of laying your letter before it, which opportunity in all probability will not occur until February next, being the period when the Legislature of this Colony is usually assembled in Session, and when it will afford me great gratification to further the object of the Canadian Parliament by every means in my power.

With the highest respect and consideration,

I have the honor to be,

Sir,
Your most obedient humble Servant,
R. HODGSON,
President, Legislative Council,
Prince Edward Island.

To the Honorable the Speaker of the
Legislative Assembly of *Canada*,
&c. &c. &c.

Fredericton, New Brunswick,
26th July, 1849.

Letter from the
Speaker of the
Legislative
Council of
New Brunswick.

Sir,—I have been favored with your communication of the 3rd instant, respecting the universally regretted destruction of your fine Library with the Legislative Buildings in *Montreal*.

It is impossible to find any who do not sincerely sympathize with *Canada* in the severe loss sustained by that barbarous catastrophe.

I regret to say that little or nothing is in my power to effect towards the desirable object of your application; but, in the meantime, I place your letter