

TO THE FREE AND
Independent Electors
 OF THE
COUNTY
 OF
DURHAM.

Gentlemen,

The spontaneous expression of your desire, manifested at the recent Town Meetings, that I should present myself for your suffrages at the approaching Election for this County, draws me from the retreats of private life, thus to address you:

It has ever been my opinion, that a Candidate for a Seat in the popular branch of the Legislature, should be called forth by the Popular voice,—he has no right to foist or thrust himself upon you; your mode of proceeding then, Gentlemen, so consonant to my feelings, impels me to respond to that call with every grateful emotion of my heart, and with only one regret,—the regret that your choice did not fall on one, whose abilities would have fully justified that selection.

For more than 20 years have I been a stated Resident within your County, pursuing that avocation by which almost your entire Constituency earn their daily bread,—the ancient and honorable pursuit of Agriculture; intimately acquainted with the wants of the Country and the wishes of its Inhabitants; having no object of personal ambition or private interest to gratify, but actuated solely by a desire to promote your prosperity and to perpetuate our connexion with the Parent State, on the only solid, permanent, and enduring basis, of mutual interests, and mutual affection.

I am an advocate for a wise, liberal, conciliatory, and enlightened policy, but an adherent to principle; I wish to see equal, even handed, and impartial justice administered to all classes of the community; and am opposed to any body of men (however respectable in talent,) presumptuously arrogating to themselves the right, to monopolize all places of honor and emolument in the gift of the Executive, on the mere plea of being cemented in a band of union by ties of consanguinity, or affinity, or the more arrogant assumption of superior intellectual endowments; thereby establishing an odious species of Oligarchy, incompatible with the genius of our Free Institutions.—Gentlemen, The benevolent instructions of our most excellent and gracious Queen, to her distinguished Representative who presides over the Government of all Her North American Provinces, are to remedy such evils; and shall we not lend a helping hand? yes Gentlemen we will! and I call on the adventurous and meritorious Pioneers of the Canadian Forests,—the true hearted Briton, and the generous and warm hearted Hibernian, to abandon the outworks of political strife, and with a single eye to the public weal, to center their confidence in me; let every remedial measure be fairly tested by returning to Parliament an advocate of those principles: My Motto is—“New Measures—New Men;” and my colours are—NAVY BLUE; let us bear true allegiance to them; we have with us the great body of the intelligent, the moral, and the thinking part of the community, and it is their countenance and support I most highly, and dearly prize.

I now advert to a subject of the most vital importance, namely,—the depression in price of our Staple Agricultural productions! this in my opinion is mainly to be attributed to defective Legislation, in regulating our Commercial intercourse with the United States, and a forced and unnatural construction placed on an Act of the Imperial Parliament, by which American Wheat may be brought into Canada free of duty, there ground and consumed, or imported into the United Kingdom or to the British West India Colonies as the Actual Growth of the Province. Gentlemen, this glaring act of injustice must be remedied, there is no difficulty in accomplishing it, and I cordially congratulate this great Agricultural County, for taking the lead in removing this incubus on our prosperity. Gentlemen I say thanks, most gratefully—thanks are justly due to those estimable men—The President, Vice Presidents and Directors of your vigorous & admirably conducted Agricultural Society; for their watchful and guardian care in protecting our best interests, by industriously circulating for signatures (last winter) and then presenting to Parliament a Petition of remonstrance, signed by no less than 2500 of the most respectable Yeomanry of the County; their able example is now spreading far and wide, and such appeals will be made to Justice as must ultimately prove irresistible, and if I have the honor to represent you, I shall be unceasing in my exertions to procure for you a steady and continued demand for your staple productions in the British Market, at remunerating prices, stimulating the Growers renewed energy in the cultivation of his Farm.

In adverting to local matters, permit me to assure you that this County will especially claim a large share of my earnest solicitude; My exertions will be directed to procure for the Inhabitants of the Rear Townships an expedient and cheap mode of conveyance for their surplus Produce to their natural outlet and market on Lake Ontario; and also to urge on toward completion, the improvement of the internal navigation of the beautiful and picturesque Lakes in our Northern section, now studded with the Seats of loyalty, intelligence, and worth; and Gentlemen, believe me, I am incapable of being actuated by the narrow and selfish principle of confining my exertions to the mere locality of the Township in which I reside; the improvements now in progress, and the various roads in the Townships of Clarke & Darlington leading to the rear settlements, will equally participate in my zeal and solicitude. I shall never forget that I am a representative of the entire County, and not for a favored portion of that Constituency.

Having said thus much, suffer me to remind you that the contest in which we are engaged, is no trial of strength between Tory & Radical, for I disclaim any participation in such appellations, but the question is, whether we will hearken to the voice of our Gracious Queen speaking through her distinguished Representative, to allay party animosities, abandon extreme points of political controversy, and have peace and prosperity; or whether, we will still adhere to those ultra doctrines, which frustrate the benevolent designs of our youthful Queen, and entail the direst calamities on our Country;—that the good sense of our enlightened community will decide in favor of the former, I have no doubt, and their suffrages will place me with a triumphant majority, as the Representative of this County, in the Common House of Assembly in the first United Parliament.

I have the honor to be, Gentlemen,

Your devoted, faithful, and zealous Servant,

JOHN TUCKER WILLIAMS.

Township of Hope, January 9th 1844.

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