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PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

RETURN to an Address of the Honourable the House of Commons,  
dated 9 June 1847;—for,

“COPY of an ADDRESS from the HOUSE of ASSEMBLY of *Prince Edward Island* to HER MAJESTY, praying for RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT in that Colony.”

Colonial Office, Downing-street, }  
24 June 1847. }

B. HAWES.

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ADDRESS of the HOUSE of ASSEMBLY of *Prince Edward Island*.

MOST GRACIOUS SOVEREIGN,

WE your Majesty's loyal subjects, the House of Assembly of Prince Edward Island, have humbly to represent to your Majesty, that in the despatch from the Right honourable W. E. Gladstone, of 28th May 1846 (No. 12), it is stated to be your Majesty's desire, that the Officer administering the Government of Prince Edward Island, and all the subordinate officers of that Government, should merit and obtain—as it is your Majesty's injunction that they should cultivate—the confidence of the representatives of the people inhabiting the island, by every measure which can be pursued for that purpose consistently with their duty to the Crown, and to the colonists at large, and that for the above instruction, the House of Assembly beg to express their grateful acknowledgment.

The House of Assembly have further most respectfully to represent, that the former House had, in their Address of last year, alluded to the neighbouring Provinces, as evincing the benefits resulting from responsible government in general; and from the remarks in the concluding part of the despatch before referred to it is to be inferred, that the Colonial Secretary of State considered it inadvisable, on account of some dissimilarity supposed to exist between this colony and the other North American Provinces, to extend immediately in practice to this island the same ample system of responsibility as is enjoyed by many of them; and this declination on his part appears to have been also based in some degree on the belief, that such a system had not by any despatch been directly conceded to this colony.

May it please your Majesty, we beg to state that in the despatch of 16 October 1839, referred to by the former Assembly in its Address of 1846, there is the following paragraph: “The object of my present communication is to announce to you the rules which will be hereafter observed on this subject in the Island Prince Edward.”

In regard to this despatch, the House of Assembly respectfully represent, that it would give your Majesty's subjects here great satisfaction, if the principles contained in the said despatch were put into operation in good faith, on every occasion where the necessity for re-constructing the Executive Council, in order to render it more vigorous, public spirited and influential, or any other ground of public expediency may require a change in that Council, or if the persons holding any of the offices enumerated in the said despatch.

May it please your Majesty, although the principle which we are now to point out is not contained in the despatch above referred to, yet we feel ourselves under the necessity of stating, that it would tend to prevent a recurrence of evil were it made a rule, that when the Executive Council should, on important subjects