

the Committee, were then read by the Clerk, and are as follow :

To the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY ;

We, Your Majesty's subjects, the House of Assembly of Prince Edward Island, in Colonial Parliament convened, beg to assure your Majesty that in approaching your Throne with an expression of our claims to the rights and privileges of British Subjects, we are actuated by sentiments of the most fervent attachment to your Person and Government, and to the wise and time-honoured principles under which that Government is conducted.

The late House of Assembly having been dissolved by your Majesty's Representative in this Colony a year previous to the expiry of the term for which it was elected, it is believed by the majority of the new Assembly that the object of the dissolution was to ascertain the opinions of the inhabitants of the Colony in reference to the question, whether the system of administration in this part of your Majesty's dominions should be assimilated to that which obtains in the other Dependencies of the Crown on this Continent : or, in other words, whether the people of this Island were favourable to the introduction of the principles of Responsible Government in the management of their local affairs—these principles having for several years engaged public attention and divided the two political parties in the House of Assembly. While such is the belief of the present Representatives of the people, they cannot but regret that no official intimation has been given them by the Administrator of the Government of this Island, to the effect, that differences of opinion on the part of the inhabitants of the Island and of their Representatives, in reference to the question above stated, constituted the primary cause of the recent dissolution. It is, however, the duty of the House of Assembly to state to your Majesty, that the question of Responsible Government was the first and almost only one agitated upon the Hustings, and that eighteen members out of the twenty-four who comprise the number of the people's Representatives, are now solicitous for its adoption.

Thus, stimulated by their duty to their constituents, and by a firm adherence to their own views, the House of Assembly felt themselves bound to declare, at the opening of the present Session, in answer to the Speech of his Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, that they had no confidence in your Majesty's Executive Council of this Colony—

Because that Executive Council is composed of Gentlemen whose political principles are believed to be inimical to the advancement of this Island's prosperity :

Because several Departments of Government under their control have, in several instances, been grossly mismanaged :

Because it has been their policy to perpetuate a system of favouritism, by dispensing the patronage of the Crown amongst their own immediate dependents and relatives, to the manifest dissatisfaction of the great majority of your Majesty's Subjects in this Colony :

Because offices of emolument have been sold under the irresponsible system of Government, which it

has been the policy of the Executive Council to perpetuate :

Because the Revenue of the Country have not been judiciously expended in developing its resources and encouraging industry ; but rather too often squandered in speculation and extravagance :

Because the country has lost large sums of money, arising from the operation of "An Act to regulate the laying out and altering of Highways," in consequence of the Executive Government not putting the provisions of said Act in force :

Because there are still large sums of money due the country since 1834 ; and although the House of Assembly has repeatedly prayed the Executive to put the Law in force against Proprietors and others owing such sums, yet the House of Assembly despairs of ever getting such sums paid under the present system of Government.

For these and other reasons the House of Assembly have come to a resolution not to proceed to do business with the Executive Council, until such time as that Branch be remodeled—so as to reflect the opinions of the Inhabitants of this Colony—to give to it the full benefits of the British Constitution, and thus to carry out your Majesty's gracious intentions towards your Subjects in this part of your Dominions. Before this painful alternative was forced upon the House of Assembly, it is due to them to state, that they have endeavoured to meet the wishes of your Majesty's Colonial Minister, in reference to the making an adequate provision for the Civil and Judicial Establishments of this Island, as will be seen by the accompanying Bill, which the House of Assembly have passed for that purpose ; and that they have shown every disposition to carry out the views of your Majesty's Representative in respect to satisfying any just claims which public officers in this Island may have upon the Government.

The House of Assembly have much satisfaction in being able to state to your Majesty, that the provision designed for the Chief Justice, in the Civil List Bill referred to, appears to have met with the entire approbation of the Lieutenant Governor ; inasmuch as that His Excellency, in the Estimates submitted to the House for the current year, has adopted the views of the House of Assembly in reference to that Officer.

The intentions of the House of Assembly in regard to these matters are justly set forth in the following Resolutions, adopted on the 21st of March, in its present sitting :

1. **RESOLVED**, That the Constituencies of this Colony have unequivocally declared themselves in favor of Responsible Government, by the return of a large majority of their Representatives who were pledged to carry out that measure.

2. **RESOLVED**, That the Despatch, dated 27th December, 1849, from the Colonial Office, laid this Session before the House, was not so clear as was desirable ; yet, the Committee believe that it warranted the Governor in making the changes desired by the House of Assembly.

3. **RESOLVED**, That in the answer of the House to the Governor's Speech, they expressed their want of confidence in the Executive Council, by a vote of seventeen to three.