

placed in their hands the most active and powerful means of material and political advancement.

The Commons have hastened to give their sanction to the Acts necessary for the establishment of Commercial Reciprocity between the *United States* and *Canada*.

This Legislation and the numerous Laws which have been passed, to facilitate the means of communication and of commerce in general, lead to the hope that the prosperity which *Canada* has enjoyed for several years past, will not suffer any diminution.

The struggle which *England* and *France* are sustaining against *Russia* in the cause of civilization, has aroused the deepest sympathies of our population, and the Commons have thought proper to manifest their sympathy by coming forward in a liberal spirit to the assistance of the victims of the War.

The Commons desirous of rendering the second branch of the Legislature more in harmony with public opinion, and with one social system, have declared that that branch ought to be rendered elective; but we regret that the two deliberative Bodies of the State were unable to arrive at the same conclusion on these points.

To enable Your Government to defray the Expenses of the Public Service, the Commons in their liberality have voted the Supplies required.

The Bills which I have the honor to present to Your Excellency on this subject, are intituled, "An Act to amend the Act amending the Act granting a Civil List to Her Majesty, by increasing the Salaries of certain Judicial Functionaries and other Officers therein mentioned, and to fix those of certain other Public Officers," and "An Act for granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money required for defraying certain Expenses of the Civil Government for the year 1855, and certain other Expenses connected with the Public Service," and I pray that these Bills may receive the Royal Sanction.

The Honorable the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly then presented the following Money Bills:—

An Act to amend the Act amending the Act granting a Civil List to Her Majesty, by increasing the Salaries of certain Judicial Functionaries and other Officers therein mentioned, and to fix those of certain other Public Officers.

An Act for granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money required for defraying certain Expenses of the Civil Government for the year 1855, and certain other Expenses connected with the Public Service.

To each of which the Royal Assent was signified in the following words:—

"In Her Majesty's Name, His Excellency the Governor General thanks Her loyal subjects, accepts their benevolence, and assents to this Bill."

After which, His Excellency was pleased to make the following Speech to both Houses:—

Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council,  
Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly,

The Session which is on the point of closing will have been marked by the adoption of measures of the highest importance.

An Act assented to by my predecessor has finally settled the long pending dispute with regard to the Clergy Reserves; and it has done so in such a manner as to vindicate liberal principles, whilst it treats the rights of individuals with just and considerate regard.

The same may I trust be said of another most important Law: The Act for the abolition of the Seigniorial Tenure. Great changes cannot be made without some hardship, but *Canada* will appear in history as the only Country in the world in which the feudal system has expired without violence and revolution.