

always disposed of to the Admiralty agent, in preference to any other purchaser. The privilege of the Crown has hitherto been, in fact, inoperative; and the only attempt to put it in force (that which has been directed by your Lordship, in favour of Messrs. Chapman,) has called forth very strong and forcible remonstrances from all parties interested in the trade. I shall have to address your Lordship more at length on this point hereafter. In the mean time, I would merely request that the clause relative to reservations in grants may be omitted from the Royal Instructions.

The encouragement of settlers from the United States, by any direct alteration of the existing law, I should deprecate at the present moment. Practically, there is, I believe, no difficulty in their acquiring land; but I do not think it would be advantageous to confer on them, as a right, what they now enjoy only on the sufferance of the British Government. With every respect for their energy and intelligence, and fully admitting that, as the pioneers of civilization, they are superior to every other people, I do not think it would be wise, by any general measure, to invite their settlement in large numbers in the most populous portions of Canada. There is a spirit of propagandism among American citizens, which makes it necessary to observe great caution in this matter. At the same time, I think that, in individual cases, their claims to be admitted to the rights of British subjects on certain conditions, should be considered in the most liberal spirit; and I am happy to believe that, for several years past, this spirit has prevailed in both provinces.

I have now gone through all the suggestions of the Commissioners of Land and Emigration; and it is satisfactory to me to find that there is little difference between the views of those gentlemen and my own. The subject of the disposal of the Crown Lands is one of the most important which it is my duty to consider; and, in the settlement of the executive departments, under the Union Bill, it will be my endeavour to make such arrangements as may ensure the efficient discharge, for the future, of the duties of the Commissioners of Crown Lands and Surveyor General. The errors of former systems, and the long continued neglect of this branch of the public service, have no doubt created difficulties of a very serious nature; but I trust that it may be in my power to overcome them, and to introduce into this portion of the administration a system which is both advantageous and satisfactory to the public.

I take this opportunity of acknowledging your lordship's despatch of the 1st August last. No. 195, and of informing you that I have directed the questions proposed by the Land and Emigration Commissioners to be printed and distributed among all those who may be able to give accurate information on the points adverted to by them.

I shall take another and early opportunity of replying to the communication from the Commissioners on the subject of Emigration, transmitted in your despatch, No. 291, of the 13th August.

I have, &c.

(Signed) SYDENHAM.

The Right Hon.

Lord John Russell, &c.

The Provincial Parliament has been prorogued to the 14th of June, then to meet for the despatch of business.

His Excellency the Governor General and suite arrived at Kingston on the 23th of May, when there

was a general procession of the inhabitants to welcome His Excellency.

To the Right Honourable CHARLES, BARON SYDENHAM, of Sydenham in the County of Kent, and of Toronto in Canada, one of Her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, Governor General of British North America, &c. &c. &c.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY :

We, the inhabitants of the Town of Kingston, beg permission to most respectfully offer to Your Excellency, our sincere congratulations on your arrival at the Seat of the Government of United Canada.

We have learned with feelings of extreme sorrow, that Your Excellency suffered under a painful indisposition; and it was with anxious solicitude we daily awaited the announcement of your restored health. In these feelings we participated with our fellow-subjects throughout the Province, for whose general benefit you have undergone those mental and bodily labours which could scarcely fail to press on the human constitution.

It is needless for us to assure Your Excellency that we rejoice that it has been our providential lot, to be placed in a geographical position so favored, as to be selected by those most competent to decide this momentous question, for the location of the Government of this extensive Province. But while we behold with humble gratification this important change in our condition, we cannot but feel sensible that considerable personal inconvenience must, for the present be experienced by many who will necessarily accompany this movement; and it becomes our duty as it will be our endeavour, as far as lies in our power, to render those inconveniences as little pressing as possible on those exposed to them.

With respect to Your Excellency personally, we take this occasion to declare, that we should be wanting in every feeling of gratitude and duty, were we to fail in ministering by all the means within our power to Your Excellency's comfort and wishes; and we fervently hope that notwithstanding the disadvantages of temporary accommodation, Your Excellency may enjoy uninterrupted health and happiness.

On behalf of the Inhabitants,

(Signed) J. COUNTER, Mayor.

His Excellency's Reply.

MR. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN :

I accept with great pleasure the welcome which you offer me on my arrival at Kingston.

Having felt it to be my duty, with reference to the general interests confided to my care, after due consideration to fix upon your city as the place where the first Legislature of the Province of Canada should meet, I learn from you with satisfaction, that the inhabitants are determined to use their best efforts to contribute to the comfort and convenience of those whom the public business must necessarily assemble there. It is unquestionably your interest to do so.

On my own part I thank you for the expression of your sympathy for the sufferings with which I have been afflicted. The interest which I take in the welfare of this Province, and my deep conviction that the present is a crisis in its fate, will I trust under Providence, support me in the task which yet remains to be performed, and enable me even under the disadvantage of failing health and strength, to discharge my duty to my Sovereign, and to the People of Canada, who have afforded me so many marks of their confidence and regard.