

*Gentlemen of the Legislative Council, and
Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,*

In this great crisis of the fate of our country, that country which is mine, and to which every one who hears me, as well as myself, may emphatically add, *that country which is me*, I have deemed it right to meet you in person, in order to strengthen your patriotism, shed unanimity over your councils, inspire you with wisdom and firmness, as well as with moderation and temper, and to increase your zeal, enthusiasm, and affection, for your country; she who stands before you, in the conscious pride of beauty, and excellence, and knows she has only to shew herself to be beloved and desired by all.

Since you last met under this roof, two acts of the Imperial parliament of Great Britain, (to whom I, and my sister provinces around me, owe due homage, and pay unfeigned respect,) have been passed, which materially affect the trade of this province by sea: together with another regulating our trade with the United States, of America, and our intercourse with my beloved sister province, on my right hand, Upper-Canada. Copies of these acts, are laid before you; and it will be part of your duty to consider their effects and tendency, on the trade, agriculture, and morals of the country, and in case you find them in any wise likely to be prejudicial, then you will humbly, and respectfully, make such representations and remonstrances, as in your wisdom you may see fit.

You have been informed that His Majesty's ministers proposed to parliament, certain alterations in the Act 31 Geo. III. Cap. 31. principally (as has been stated from this throne) with a view to unite into one, the two legislatures of Upper and Lower Canada, but that this measure was withdrawn and postponed to the next session, in order to afford an opportunity of ascertaining the sentiments of the people of these provinces upon it.

Whilst I bow with gratitude for the consideration, & with admiration of the wisdom & magnanimity, displayed by parliament, in refusing to legislate for a populous province, without knowing the sentiments of its inhabitants, I must not omit to tell you that, tho' the legislative union of the two provinces, is certainly in one sense the principal view of that proposed alteration, yet that was only the means for effecting the ultimate views of its projectors. Those views were

1st and foremost; To obtain from all the British dependencies that have legislatures, permanent grants for life to the king, of all their revenues, to be disposed of solely at the pleasure of the ministers of the crown.

2d. To make the political experiment with this province first, as being the first in rank, extent, and importance, of all the present British transmarine possessions; so that if it succeeds here, it may serve as a precedent for all the rest.