

Frederick Elliot,
Esq.

28 April 1834.

Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,

The accounts of the past year are in a forward state of preparation, and I have every reason to believe that they will be ready to be laid before you previous to the expiration of the period fixed by legislative regulation for the production of the public accounts.

An estimate of expenses for the ensuing year is also in preparation, and will shortly be ready to be submitted to you.

Gentlemen of the Legislative Council,

Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,

The accession of His Majesty King William the Fourth, and his consort Queen Adelaide, an event which has filled with joy the heart of every British subject, affords an opportunity of expressing those sentiments of loyalty and attachment to the reigning Royal family, by which His Majesty's faithful and loyal Canadian subjects have ever been distinguished.

Were I to consult my own inclination on the present occasion, I should avoid saying anything concerning myself personally; but, appearing before you as I now do for the first time, I think it necessary to detain you a few moments longer, while I express the deep sense I entertain of the importance of the arduous duties which The King has been graciously pleased to confide to me; and although personally a stranger to this part of His Majesty's dominions, I am nevertheless fully aware of the nature and extent of the difficulties by which those duties are surrounded. How to surmount the difficulties to which I now allude shall be the object of my constant study; and conscious of my own deficiencies, I will endeavour to supply my want of ability for the task by a strict and steady adherence to those principles of justice and impartiality which I am quite sure will never mislead me.

It may be that my efforts are not destined to be crowned with success; I will at least endeavour to deserve it.

In conclusion: It is worthy of observation that your present meeting is marked by peculiar circumstances. You are now for the first time called together under the authority of His present Majesty King William the Fourth, and the popular branch of the Legislature, which has been considerably extended by a late legislative enactment, assembles now, also for the first time, with its augmented numbers. These circumstances, gentlemen, constitute the commencement of a new era in your parliamentary history,—an era which I do most earnestly hope may be distinguished by that harmony and good understanding between the several branches of the Legislature, which is so essentially necessary to give full effect to the advantages of the constitution you have the happiness to possess, and for the preservation of which, as by law established, it is, I am well convinced, equally the interest of every Canadian subject of His Majesty to pray fervently to Almighty God.

TO his Excellency Matthew Lord Aylmer, Knight Commander of the most honourable Military Order of the Bath, Lieutenant-General and Commander of His Majesty's Forces in the Provinces of Lower Canada and Upper Canada, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and their several Dependencies, and Administrator of the Government of the Province of Lower Canada, &c. &c. &c.

May it please your Excellency,

We, His Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects the Commons of Lower Canada, in Provincial Parliament assembled, most humbly thank your Excellency for your speech delivered at the opening of the present Session.

We gratefully appreciate the kind consideration for our personal convenience which determined your Excellency to defer the calling together the Legislature until the corresponding period of last year's meeting.

Your Excellency does justice to the attachment of the inhabitants of this Province to His Majesty's person and Government, in the expression of your conviction that the loss which His Majesty and the Royal Family have sustained by the demise of our late gracious Sovereign has been a subject of severe grief to his subjects in Canada.

We thank your Excellency for the assurance that your attention since your arrival amongst us has been directed to the objects of internal improvement, and we shall respectfully take into consideration any suggestions relating to this important subject which your Excellency may be pleased to offer.

The state of the currency has already occupied the attention of the Legislature at the last Session, and we are grateful for the proffered information on a matter of such essential interest, in the event of the subject being again taken into consideration.

We receive with great respect the information which your Excellency has communicated relating to the events which have interrupted the progress of the measures contemplated by His Majesty's Government respecting the question of finance, and also the assurance that His Majesty's Government is deeply impressed with the necessity of an immediate and satisfactory adjustment of that question; and we learn with satisfaction that your Excellency is led to hope for instructions calculated to prevent the chance of future collisions on this subject.

Under the most trying circumstances, it has ever been the sincere wish of His Majesty's subjects whom we have the honour to represent, to provide for the exigencies of the Government, as seemed to them consistent with their constitutional rights.

We thankfully appreciate His Majesty's declaration, that he has no desire to call upon His faithful subjects in Lower Canada for any supplies beyond such as may, upon a full consideration,