

to enable him to discharge in an effective manner his duties towards a neighbouring power on terms of friendship with Her Majesty, His Excellency has seen fit to organize a system of detective Police on the frontier line of the *United States*, and with the same design has called out for permanent duty a portion of the Volunteer Force of the Province.

To assure His Excellency that we shall give our early consideration to the Bill, which he has been pleased to inform us will be laid before Parliament, framed for the purpose of arming the Executive Government with stronger powers than it now possesses for dealing with persons, who, while availing themselves of the right of asylum which has always been allowed on British soil to political refugees from all foreign countries, may be unmindful of the implied obligations which, by their residence amongst us, they contract to obey our laws and to respect the declared policy of our Sovereign.

To assure His Excellency that this House is happy to hear of the zeal and alacrity displayed by the members of the Volunteer force when called upon to turn out for active service; and to agree with His Excellency that their conduct shows that the present population of *Canada* has not degenerated from the manly virtues which characterize the races from which it derives its origin, and that it may be relied on, under all circumstances, to respond to the call of duty, either for the maintenance of internal order, or to repel foreign aggression.

To thank His Excellency for the information that the Commissioners appointed under the provisions of the second chapter of the Consolidated Statutes for *Lower Canada* to frame a Civil Code, and also a Code of Civil Procedure for *Lower Canada*, have completed the former part of their duty, and that the Code of Civil Procedure is in a very advanced state; and also for your assurance that the result of the labours of the Commissioners shall be laid before this House.

To agree with His Excellency that the completion of the Codification of the Civil Law, in both French and English, cannot fail to be of great benefit to the inhabitants of *Lower Canada*, by enabling the people of all origins to read, in their own languages, the Civil Law under which they live, and which hitherto has only been accessible in a language which is not the mother tongue of a portion of the people whose civil rights are regulated by it.

To assure His Excellency that we recall with satisfaction his statement at the close of the last Session of Parliament, that it was his intention, in conjunction with his Ministers, to prepare and submit to Parliament a measure for the solution of the constitutional problem, the discussion of which has for some years agitated this Province.

To convey to His Excellency the assurance that we receive with earnest attention his announcement that a careful consideration of the general position of *British North America* induced the conviction that the circumstances of the times afforded the opportunity, not merely for the settlement of Provincial politics, but also for the simultaneous creation of a new Nationality.

To thank His Excellency for informing us that preliminary negotiations were opened by His Excellency with the Lieutenant Governors of the other Provinces of *British North America*; and that the result was that a meeting was held at *Quebec*, in the month of October last, composed of delegates from those Colonies, representing all shades of political party in their several communities, nominated by the Lieutenant Governors of their respective Provinces, who assembled here, with the sanction of the Crown, and at His Excellency's invitation, to confer with the members of the Canadian Ministry on the possibility of effecting a Union of all the Provinces of *British North America*.

To assure His Excellency that we have learned with the deepest interest that this Conference, after lengthened deliberations, arrived at the conclusion that a Federal Union of these Provinces was feasible and desirable, and that the result of its labours is a plan of Constitution for the proposed Union, embodied in a series of resolutions, which, with other papers relating to the subject, His Excellency has directed to be laid before Parliament; and that the general design of a Union, and the particular plan by which it is proposed to carry that intention into effect, have both received the cordial approbation of the Imperial Government.

To inform His Excellency that an Imperial Act of Parliament being necessary in order to give effect to the contemplated Union of the Colonies, this House is gratified to