

Enclosure 4 in No. 38.

To his Excellency the Right Honourable Charles Poulett Thomson, one of Her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, Governor-General of British North America, and Captain-General and Governor-in-Chief in and over the Provinces of Lower Canada and Upper Canada, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and the Island of Prince Edward, and Vice-Admiral of the same.

No. 38.
The Rt. Hon. C. P.
Thomson to Lt. John
Russell.
Dec. 7, 1839.
Enclosure No. 4.

May it please your Excellency,

WE, Her Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of Upper Canada, in Provincial Parliament assembled, humbly beg leave to thank your Excellency for your speech from the Throne, at the opening of the present Session, and to congratulate your Excellency on your arrival in this province as the representative of our most Gracious Sovereign, and also to express our confidence that the appointment of a member of the Cabinet to administer the government of these colonies, indicates the anxiety of Her Majesty to remedy the past disorders of the Canadas, and to restore peace and tranquillity therein.

We receive with gratitude the assurance of Her Majesty's fixed determination to maintain the connexion now existing between her North American possessions and the United Kingdom, and to exercise the high authority with which she has been invested by the favour of Divine Providence for the promotion of their happiness and the security of her dominions.

We are happy to be informed that your Excellency has no grounds for apprehending a recurrence of those aggressions on our frontier which we have had lately to deplore, and which we entirely concur with your Excellency have affixed an indelible disgrace on all connected with them, and we beg to assure your Excellency that an appeal to the loyalty and zeal of Her Majesty's faithful subjects in this province to repel unjust and hostile aggression, will never be made in vain.

We will gladly avail ourselves of the state of tranquillity at present existing in the province to direct our attention to such important matters as may be brought under our notice during the present Session.

We will give our careful consideration to the subject of the legislative re-union of this province with Lower Canada, which has been recommended by Her Majesty to the Imperial Parliament, and will devote to it that calm deliberation which its importance demands.

The condition of the public departments in this province shall receive our best attention, and we are happy to hear that the inquiry of the Commission appointed by his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor has been carried to an advanced stage, and that as soon as the result of it shall be communicated, it shall receive our most careful consideration.

We are gratified to be informed that Her Majesty's Government have concluded an arrangement for opening a communication by steam between Great Britain and her North American possessions; and we beg to assure your Excellency that the liberality of the parent state, in assuming the whole expense of the undertaking, is duly appreciated by us.

We shall receive with respectful consideration the answers of Her Majesty to the various addresses adopted by this House during the last Session, as well as Her Majesty's decision on the bills passed by us, but reserved for the signification of the Royal pleasure thereon.

We will devote our early and attentive consideration to the financial condition of the province.

We are sensible of the obligation we are under to preserve public credit, and that in this country, more especially, it is a matter no less of policy than of duty, and we shall endeavour to adopt such measures as will enable the provincial revenue to fulfil its obligations, and to defray the necessary expenses of government; and cheerfully avail ourselves of the co-operation of your Excellency to promote the full development of the resources of this country, and to overcome our financial difficulties.

We will carefully examine the statement of our financial condition when laid before us, as well as the estimates for the ensuing year, which we are gratified to learn will be prepared with every regard to economy compatible with the due execution of the service of the province.

We are truly rejoiced to learn that the resumption of specie payments by the banks has taken place, and we hope that the guarantee thus afforded of the security and stability of our pecuniary transactions, will be attended with the most beneficial result.

The surrender of the casual and territorial revenue of the Crown, in exchange for a civil list, will receive our consideration; and on being informed of the grounds on which Her Majesty's Government felt precluded from assenting to the settlement which we lately proposed, we shall use our best exertions for the final settlement of the question.

We rejoice to hear it announced by your Excellency that the Imperial Parliament and Her Majesty's Government have recommended the settlement of the affairs of the Canadas upon a firm and comprehensive basis. We fully concur in the opinion expressed that they admit of no further delay, and in assuming the administration of the government of these provinces, we are sensible that the task which your Excellency has undertaken is most arduous; but we nevertheless rely on your Excellency using every exertion to effect that settlement upon terms satisfactory to the people of these provinces, and which will afford security for their continued connexion with the British empire; and your Excellency may confidently rely on this House, and on the loyalty and good sense of the people of this province, to co-operate with your Excellency for the preparation and adoption of such measures as may, under Divine Providence, restore to this country peace, concord, and prosperity.