

*To His Excellency Sir John Colborne, K. C. B. Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Upper Canada, Major General commanding His Majesty's Forces therein, &c. &c. &c.*

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

We, His Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of Upper Canada in provincial parliament assembled, most respectfully beg leave to represent that there is in this province a very general want of education; that the insufficiency of the common school fund to support competent, respectable, and well educated teachers, has degraded common school teaching from a regular business to a mere matter of convenience to transient persons or common idlers, who often teach the school one season and leave it vacant until it accommodates some other like person, whereby the minds of our youth are left without cultivation, or what is still worse, frequently with vulgar, low bred, vicious or intemperate examples before them, in the capacity of monitors.

If provision were made for the liberal and punctual payment of common school teachers under proper regulations, the teaching of common schools would soon become a regular and respectable business; gentlemanly well educated persons would not be ashamed to take charge of our youth, our schools would be no longer vacant, nor our youth ignorant; Upper Canada would then form a national character, that would command respect abroad, and ensure peace, prosperity and happiness at home, perpetuate our attachment to British principles and British institutions, and enable our posterity to value, as they ought the inestimable blessings of our glorious constitution.

We would therefore respectfully request your Excellency to cause this address to be laid before His Majesty's principal Secretary of State for the colonies; representing to His Majesty that there is dormant British capital in this province, which might be rendered available and productive if placed at the disposal of the provincial Legislature, sufficient to place its schools in as flourishing a condition as they are in any part of the civilized world, and to entreat that His Majesty will be graciously pleased to place at the disposal, or transfer to the care of the provincial Legislature 1,000,000 of acres of the waste lands of the Crown, as a permanent fund for the support of common schools within this province.