

No 15 A

C A N A D A.

RETURN to an Address of the Honourable The House of Commons,
dated 12 August 1853;—for,

“COPIES of the ADDRESSES to Her Majesty of the Legislative Council
and Assembly of *Canada*, on the Subject of the CONSTITUTION of the
former HOUSE.”

Colonial Office, }
18 August 1853. }

FREDERICK PEEL:

COPIES of the ADDRESSES to Her Majesty of the Legislative Council and
Assembly of *Canada*, on the Subject of the CONSTITUTION of the former
HOUSE.

— No. 1. —

To the QUEEN'S Most Excellent MAJESTY.

Most Gracious Sovereign,

WE, Your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Legislative Council of *Canada*, in provincial Parliament assembled, humbly approach Your Majesty with sentiments of profound attachment to Your Majesty's Person and Government.

We feel it to be a duty incumbent upon us earnestly to represent to Your Majesty, that in our opinion there is nothing in the actual state of the province, or in the character and action of its Legislature, which calls for alteration in the form of government granted by Your Majesty in the Act 3d & 4th Vict. chap. 35, and modelled, as closely as the local circumstances of a colony would permit, after that constitution which has long been the glory of the United Kingdom, and the great source of its prosperity.

We would respectfully represent to Your Majesty, that to refer the selection of Members of the Legislative Council to the popular vote, is to destroy that harmony of system upon which, in accordance with the theory of the British Constitution, the Government of this country has hitherto been considered to rest, and by thus discarding the principle of appointment by the Crown, which has hitherto been deemed essential to the maintenance of a due balance in the State, to bring the Royal Authority into direct contact with two Houses, both deriving power from and responsible to the people.

We crave permission, may it please Your Majesty, to express our fears, that should any scheme of the nature adverted to be unhappily adopted, safeguards long held indispensable against hasty and inconsiderate legislation would become inoperative; jealousies would be fostered between bodies, each equally assuming to represent the people, and the chances of collision between them increased; the balance of power in the State would become precarious, and subject to frequent disturbance; and further elementary changes would soon be demanded of a democratic character, to an extent, perhaps, which this House is unwilling to contemplate.

Legislative Council,
Saturday, 4 June 1853.

Edward Caron,
Speaker.
