

ADDRESS OF THE JOINT COMMITTEES.

To his Excellency the Right Honourable C. Poulett Thomson, Governor-General of British North America, &c. &c. &c.

No. 37.
The Rt. Hon. C. P. Thomson to Lord John Russell.
6th Dec., 1839.

May it please your Excellency :

We, the Committees appointed at public meetings held lately in the Gore and Talbot Districts, and the Committee representing certain inhabitants of the Home District, approach your Excellency with the expression of our highest respect, and beg leave to draw your Excellency's attention to the necessity which, in our opinion, exists for the protection of the constituency at the ensuing elections. It is with much regret that we feel constrained to inform your Excellency, that in several recent instances at meetings of the people, intimidation and violence have been had recourse to by persons holding military or civil authority, and others—and we have just ground for believing, that not only will many peaceably disposed persons be deterred from exercising their elective franchise, but also, that serious disturbances will be the result, if measures be not taken to ensure a free and impartial election.

We are conscious that it would be improper in us to point out to your Excellency the course to be pursued, and are satisfied that nothing more is required, than to present the subject to your Excellency's notice.

REPLY.

GENTLEMEN :

The subject to which your address refers, is one of great importance, and will receive my serious consideration.

VICTORIA ADDRESS.

To the Right Honourable Charles Poulett Thomson, one of Her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, Governor General of British North America, &c. &c. &c.

May it please your Excellency :

We, the undersigned inhabitants of the district of Victoria, beg leave, respectfully, to congratulate your Excellency on your arrival in this province.

We do this with the greater pleasure because your Excellency is accustomed to the business of the empire, is specially conversant with its trade, agriculture, and finance, and is connected with that political body who believe that Government exists for the benefit of the governed, and that if its institutions do not answer this end they ought to be reformed, until instead of retarding they assist the people to gain intellectual and moral excellence, private and public prosperity.

While we frankly admit the advantages that we enjoy as British Colonists, we are led no less frankly to state to your Excellency, that the full benefit of the British Constitution has been greatly obstructed in this province; so that, though we inhabit a country that possesses many natural advantages, its resources are very imperfectly developed, its finances are deplorably embarrassed, its credit greatly impaired, industry is inadequately rewarded, great discontent everywhere prevails, and a recent insurrection has stained our land with blood.

We do not hesitate to state to your Excellency that, in our opinion, a leading cause of the unnatural condition of our public affairs is to be found in the want of due responsibility in the chief officers of the Government to the people; so that the interest of the latter has been rendered subservient to that of the former,—their responsibility to the Imperial authorities being too remote and feeble to influence their conduct; and those authorities being too much engaged with Imperial affairs, to give ours the close and unwearied attention which they require; and, as the payment of our public officers involves the right to control them; we therefore deem that, to render the Government responsible to the people on all our local affairs, in whatever way it may best be arranged, is the chief remedy for our numerous public disorders.

Believing that your Excellency is determined to apply the powers with which you are invested solely for the public good, we beg to assure you of our strongest co-operation therein. Especially shall we implore the *Great Being* who rules over all, so to direct and aid your Excellency's endeavours, that when at some distant day, you may leave these colonies for that fair land which we recognise as *home*, you may have the happiness of leaving behind you a united, prosperous, and happy people, content and proud to remain inseparably connected with the British Empire.

1293 Signatures.

REPLY.

GENTLEMEN,

I thank you for your address and congratulations.

You do me but justice in believing that it is my firm determination to exercise the authority with which I am invested, with the single purpose of promoting the public welfare. It is with this object that I have assumed the Government of the Upper Province, in order to be able by personal observation to decide on the measures which should be recommended to the Imperial Legislature. I trust that the result of those measures will be to render both provinces of Canada prosperous, contented, and happy, and to strengthen the feelings of affection and interest by which they are now united to the parent state.