

of the inhabitants of that portion of the Province, who, though enjoying a fertile soil and genial climate, sustain, in a commercial point of view, much inconvenience from their inland situation.

The Public accounts, and the Estimates for the present year, shall receive our earnest attention.

We regret to learn from your Excellency that notwithstanding the receipt and application of the arrears awarded by the last arbitrators, a very considerable debt remains, charged against the fund of the Province. We trust that either by the improvement of the Revenue, as the population becomes more numerous, or by measures which we may find it expedient to devise to accelerate its increase, the excess of the receipts above the necessary charges will afford the prospect of speedy relief from this incumbrance. In the mean time we receive with much satisfaction the assurance of your Excellency's disposition to confine the expenditure within the narrowest limits, which a prudent regard for the essential interests of the Province will permit, a disposition which we assure Your Excellency will be met by a perfect readiness on our part, to make just provision for the maintenance of the public service.

We acknowledge with the most humble and sincere gratitude to Divine Providence, our peculiar happiness in being called to deliberate on the Affairs of the Province, at a moment when fortunately for the interests of mankind, a variety of circumstances have concurred in raising the Great Empire, to which we belong, to a height of prosperity and power, not exceeded at any period of her history. Though far removed from the Seat of this Glorious Empire, we feel an equal pride, and have an equal interest, with any other subjects in observing, that under the auspicious Reign of our beloved Monarch; the Royal Councils and the Measures of an United Parliament, have placed our Parent state in a situation which claims the respect and admiration of other Countries, while it displays in a remarkable degree the blessings of internal happiness and tranquillity, and holds forth the best assurance of security and peace to the remotest portion of her Dominions.

We receive with great thankfulness from your Excellency the information that His Majesty views with lively interest, the efforts which this Colony has directed to the improvement of its internal Communications, and we regard it as a matter deserving our most grateful acknowledgments that His Majesty's Government is disposed to co-operate in a manner that may materially facilitate the accomplishment of those great works, which have been projected by the Canal Commissioners.

The details of the Correspondence which has passed on this subject will be received by us with peculiar interest, and we beg your Excellency to accept the assurance of our sincere conviction that the Province is deeply indebted for this flattering instance of His Majesty's Gracious attention to our welfare, to the earnest recommendation with which your Excellency has been pleased to second the prayer of the Legislature.

However gratifying it must be to the People of Upper Canada to receive so many successive proofs of the Royal Consideration, we entreat your Excellency to believe, that no additional instance was necessary to confirm the belief which has ever been entertained of the favourable disposition with which His Majesty's Government regards this Province, and it would be to us a source of the most painful regret if we could entertain for a moment the apprehension that the just expectations of your Excellency are likely to be disappointed, and the best interests of those whom we represent defeated, by any want of that unanimity in our proceedings, or of that mutual confidence between the government and the people, which we are fully sensible must afford to His Majesty the best assurance that the advantages extended to this Province are duly appreciated, and will be judiciously and effectually improved.

Commons House of Assembly, 15th January, 1825.

(Signed)

JOHN WILLSON, Speaker.

To which HIS EXCELLENCY was pleased to make the following reply:—

Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,

Your very loyal and affectionate Address demands my warmest acknowledgments, I cannot recognize without deep interest, the genuine British feeling with which you take part in the common glory and prosperity of the Empire, as the welfare of this portion of that mighty dominion, is the object of my particular attention, and of my most ardent wishes. I receive with peculiar satisfaction the assurance that you will enter on the consideration of public business with a disposition so favourable to its advancement; and I trust that the result of your deliberations will equally conduce to your own honour, and the public good.