

*Saint Michael and Saint George*, Governor General of *Canada*, and Vice-Admiral of the same, &c., &c., being seated on the Chair on the Throne,

The Honorable the Speaker commanded the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod to proceed to the House of Commons, and acquaint that House—"It is His Excellency's pleasure they attend him immediately in this House."

Who, being come,

The Honorable *George Airey Kirkpatrick* said:—

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY :

The House of Commons have elected me as their Speaker, though I am but little able to fulfil the important duties thus assigned to me.

If, in the performance of those duties, I should at any time fall into error, I pray that the fault may be imputed to me, and not to the Commons, whose servant I am, and who through me, the better to enable them to discharge their duty to their Queen and Country, humbly claim all their undoubted rights and privileges, especially, that they may have freedom of speech in their debates, access to Your Excellency's person at all seasonable times, and that their proceedings may receive from Your Excellency the most favorable consideration.

The Honorable the Speaker of the Senate said:—

MR. SPEAKER,

I am commanded by His Excellency the Governor General to declare to you that he freely confides in the duty and attachment of the House of Commons to Her Majesty's person and Government, and not doubting that their proceedings will be conducted with wisdom, temper, and prudence, he grants, and upon all occasions will recognize and allow, their constitutional privileges.

I am commanded also to assure you, that the Commons shall have ready access to His Excellency upon all seasonable occasions, and that their proceedings, as well as your words and actions, will constantly receive from him the most favorable construction.

His Excellency the Governor General was then pleased to open the Session by a Gracious Speech to both Houses.

*Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate :*

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons :*

It is my pleasing duty on the opening of a new Parliament to congratulate you on the auspicious circumstances under which you will begin your labors.

*Canada* is in the enjoyment of peace and prosperity, and all her industries, agricultural, manufacturing and commercial, are in a healthy and improving condition.

Following the example of my distinguished predecessor, I paid a visit of some length to *British Columbia* last season. The great natural resources of that Province promise that as soon as the *Pacific Railway* is completed, an impulse to its prosperity, commensurate with the progress made elsewhere, will be assured. Meanwhile, the disposal of the lands set aside in aid of the Railway to actual settlers will add to the importance and wealth of the Province.

While passing through the *United States* I was rejoiced to observe many evidences of regard for the Empire of which this country forms so large a portion. May this friendship, which is so fully returned by us, be as enduring as it is natural and advantageous to the mutual interests of both great nations.