

Enclosure 6 in No. 34.

ANSWER TO INHABITANTS OF PRESCOTT, &c.

GENTLEMEN,

I THANK you for your address.

I fully appreciate the importance of the present crisis of these provinces; and the difficulties by which the settlement of their affairs is surrounded.

The warm feelings of attachment to British connexion and British institutions which animated the great body of the people, and led them to subdue rebellion at home, and repel outrage from abroad, will, I trust, lead them now to a calm and dispassionate consideration of the present circumstances of the province, and induce them to assist me in overcoming these difficulties, and in perfecting the means necessary for the future welfare of this and the neighbouring province.

Enclosure 7 in No. 34.

COPY OF ADDRESS FROM PRESCOTT.

To the Right Hon. CHARLES POULETT THOMSON, one of Her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, Governor-General of British North America, &c. &c.

May it please your Excellency,

WE, the undersigned inhabitants of the town of Prescott and its vicinity, beg respectfully to assure your Excellency, that we regard this your Excellency's early visit to Upper Canada with very sincere pleasure, inasmuch as we think we see in it an earnest that our affairs will now have that attention and action bestowed upon them which they have so long and so greatly needed.

Some of us, when your Excellency was expected here about two weeks ago, appended our names to an address merely congratulatory of your Excellency's safe arrival in this country. It has since then been thought it would be useful and satisfactory to your Excellency to hear from the people themselves what their opinions and feelings are in respect to the political condition of the country. With this impression, and as part of the people, we would now respectfully submit that we agree with the Earl of Durham in his able Report as Lord High Commissioner to Her Majesty, that our difficulties have mainly arisen from this—that the representative branch of the legislature has been denied in practice that weight and influence in the affairs of the colony, without which harmony can scarcely long subsist among the different parts of a mixed form of government. It is without the power of giving any general direction to the policy of the local government, while the principal officials of the country, holding their offices, contrary to the English rule, in perfect independence of it, possessing a majority in the Legislative Council, enjoying the weight and dignity of high official rank, and with nearly the whole of the patronage of the Government at their disposal; can check and thwart every House of Assembly unfavourable to them. We would further respectfully submit, that Lord Durham has not only laid open, in the Report referred to, the great and principal cause of our late and present troubles, but has likewise, in our opinion, pointed out the only sufficient remedy for them. To wit: that the local affairs of the province should, in analogy with custom in England, be conducted by persons possessing the confidence of the House of Assembly, provision being made for the careful preservation of the prerogatives of the Crown, and for making the Imperial Parliament arbiter in case of dispute of what ought to be considered local; and what imperial concerns. This remedy, though simple, we believe with his Lordship, would be effectual. We believe, too, that it would be safe. We are sure it would be safer than continuing to govern as heretofore; for now, when anything is done unpalatable to the people, there is room for charging it upon the home Government; then, we could charge it on none but ourselves.

We speak the truth when we assure your Excellency that we prefer the limited monarchy of England to any other form of government; that we are attached to the mother country, and desire a continued connexion with it, but we desire, with the same ardour, to be freed from our present subjection to the irresponsible official party at the seat of Government, with their friends, expectants, and supporters there and throughout the country.

With these opinions and desires, and believing them to be largely, and even generally, participated in by our fellow-subjects in the province, we would respectfully but earnestly entreat your Excellency to assume the administration of the Government, and to dissolve the present House of Assembly, first, however, giving that body an opportunity of providing for the quiet and peaceable enjoyment hereafter of the elective franchise by every person entitled to it by law; and thereby diminish the chances for the repetition in many parts of the country of the lamentable scene that has so lately disgraced the neighbourhood of Toronto.

Enclosure 8 in No. 34.

Gentlemen,

ANSWER.

THE object of my visit to Upper Canada at this early period of my administration is to be able, by personal observation, to ascertain the measures which may be best calculated to promote the welfare of this and the sister province. In the execution of this duty I shall ever be ready to listen to the representations of all classes of her Majesty's subjects;—and it will give me the most sincere satisfaction if my efforts for the public good should meet with their approval.

No. 34.
Right Hon.
C. P. Thomson
to Lord John Russell.
November 23, 1839.

Enclosure No. 6.

Enclosure No. 7.

Enclosure No. 8.