

your own request, and that you will duly acknowledge Her gracious compliance with the Addresses which you yourselves caused to be presented to Her.

It affords me much satisfaction to state that the Commission for the settlement of the Seignorial tenure will shortly close its labors, and that a moderate outlay beyond the appropriation of 1854 will satisfy all reasonable expectations on the part of the Censitaires.

The Municipal Law of *Lower Canada* requires revision and consolidation. A measure for this purpose will be submitted for your consideration.

The possibility of uniting, by some tie of a federal character, the British Colonies in *North America*, has formed the subject of correspondence, which will be placed in your hands. I will also cause to be submitted to you Despatches from Her Majesty's Secretary of State, in relation to questions affecting the *Hudson's Bay Company*, and on the subject of the Inter-colonial Railway.

*Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly:*

The accounts for the year just expired shall be laid before you as soon as possible. I regret that the financial and commercial depression which has weighed upon us, in common with our neighbors, has not yet wholly passed away.

But it is gratifying to me to state symptoms of amendment have begun to show themselves, and I trust that should Providence bless *Canada* this year with her usually abundant harvest, she will recover her former prosperous condition. The exercise of a sound and rigid economy in every department of the public service, will, I hope, again enable us to bring our whole expenditure within the limits required by our Revenue.

I have the satisfaction to inform you that an arrangement respecting the debt due to the Imperial Government, and the sinking fund connected with it, of a character highly advantageous to the Province, has been effected in England. The papers relating to this matter shall be laid before you.

In asking at your hands the supplies for Her Majesty's Service, I desire to assure you that every thing will be done with a view to placing the tariff on a satisfactory footing. The principle of *ad valorem* duties will be proposed for your adoption in all cases in which it can be properly and advantageously applied.

*Honorable Gentlemen, and Gentlemen:*

The important work of the revision of the Statutes is, I am happy to say, nearly completed, and Parliament will soon be required to pass such a measure of consolidation as you may see fit to sanction.

I believe that I have summoned you to meet on the present occasion at the time most convenient to yourselves. So much beneficial legislation on important