

ADDRESS,

TO HER MAJESTY, ON THE STATE OF THE PROVINCE.

TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

MOST GRACIOUS SOVEREIGN:

We Your Majesty's dutiful and loyal Subjects, the Legislative Council of Upper Canada, in Provincial Parliament assembled, humbly beg leave to address ourselves to Your Majesty, upon the difficulties which have lately surrounded this Colony.

In the adjoining Province of Lower Canada a long course of yielding policy has ended, as the loyal inhabitants of that Colony were persuaded it must end, in open rebellion. For many years past the Representatives of our Sovereign in that Province have hesitated to give effect to the Constitution, and to enforce the principles of Justice; one indignity after another has been borne by them, with a forbearance which has had no other effect than to diminish respect for their authority; concession has followed concession involving, in some instances, the violation of important principles, until at last the friends of the Crown knew not what Institution of the Government they could venture to sustain with confidence; and the avowed enemies of British rule saw no object which they might not hope to gain by insolence and clamor.

The yielding to unjust demands intemperately urged does not beget friendship; and it was natural that the deluded inhabitants of Lower Canada should transfer their attachment, as they have done, from the Government which surrendered its prerogatives to the pretended patriots, who in their name boldly and successfully assailed them.

Reasoning from the experience of the past, their turbulent leaders were encouraged to hope that there was no change, however destructive it might be of British supremacy, which they might not accomplish by assuming the language and demeanor of defiance. They have accordingly so inflamed the minds of an ignorant peasantry by violent harangues, and publications, that they have driven them at last to actual rebellion, when it is probable that they intended and hoped to effect their purpose by merely holding out a threatening appearance.— Happily this rebellion has been promptly suppressed by the vigorous measures of Lieutenant General Sir John Colborne, the Commander of Your Majesty's Forces, but not without a loss of life, especially on the part of the insurgents, which we fully believe would have been avoided, by a firm and just exercise of the powers of Government in former years. In order to have discountenanced effectually the efforts of the factious nothing more, we are persuaded, was necessary than the holding out to them a timely and unequivocal warning, that the principles of the British Constitution would assuredly be supported, if necessary, by the power of the British Empire.

The anxiety with which the inhabitants of Upper Canada have regarded the events to which we refer, is sufficiently accounted for by the relative position of the two Provinces.— Lower Canada interposes between us and the ocean, and it is only by passing through it that we can have access to any other portion of Your Majesty's dominions, without depending on a right of egress through a foreign State. But we assure Your Majesty that other feelings besides the sense of danger to ourselves, have prompted us to look with extreme concern upon the late conflict in that Colony. We deeply sympathised with one hundred and fifty thousand of our fellow Subjects, whose lives and properties it is now become manifest were in imminent danger of total destruction, from the inveterate hatred of British rule which has sprung up in proportion as the confidence which they were accustomed to repose in the protection of their Government has been suffered to be shaken. It must have been most gratifying to Your Majesty to learn, that in the absence of direct reinforcements from England, it was found not imprudent to with-