

Material improvements to the fortifications of Quebec were commenced this Summer; and the foundations of four towers extending across the commanding ground in front of the walls, west of the city, were laid. The extraordinary state of affairs in Europe, combined with the American Embargo, turned an unusual tide of commerce into the Canadas, and their resources and utility to the mother country were exemplified, far beyond the expectations of the most sanguine and intelligent speculator.

On the 10th of April, 1809, the House of Assembly met pursuant to the Governor's Proclamation, and the people were on the tiptoe of anxiety, a report having gone abroad that His Excellency would not concur with the House, should their choice be in favor of the Speaker of the late House of Assembly, whom he had some time before dismissed the Militia. The gentleman was, however, almost unanimously chosen Speaker, and the Governor approved of his election.

In his Speech at the opening of Parliament, the Governor descanted upon the unfavorable posture of affairs with America; the revolution in Spain; and the generous assistance afforded that Country by Great-Britain; the emigration of the Royal Family of Portugal to the new world; the victory of the British at Vimiera, by which Portugal had been rescued from the French; and concluded by cautioning the Members of the Legislature against jealousies among themselves, or of the Government, which could have no other object in view than the general welfare. 'I regret gentlemen,' said he 'that I have been compelled by circumstances, to call you together at a season of the year which I