

House attended his  
Excellency.

Mr. *Speaker*, with the house attended, and being returned, reported that his Excellency was pleased to make the following speech to both houses, of which he had procured a copy as follows :

“ *Gentlemen of the Council,*

“ *And Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,*

His Excellency's  
speech to the  
Council and As-  
sembly.

“ **T**HE arrival of *Lord Dorchester*, at Quebec, with his Majesty's Commissions of Commander in Chief of the British forces in the North-American colonies, and Governor of each province, having taken place since your recess. It is with the greatest satisfaction I inform you of arrangements which cannot fail to give every encouragement to this rising settlement. The more intimate our union becomes with our sister colonies, and the more closely our interests are connected, the stronger shall we eventually be to encounter any obstacles to our growth and prosperity.

“ As I am persuaded you will cheerfully adopt every measure which shall be conducive to these ends, I must call your attention to the means necessary for our defence, without which we can scarcely hope for permanent security. The first step to be taken in this business is the establishment of a provincial militia, it being of the highest importance that the military experience of the inhabitants should not be lost amidst their peaceful employments. We ought carefully to shun the danger of resting our fate on the quiet temper of foreign states, nor should we ever rely on any but our own arm for immediate protection. A well regulated militia will at all times prove our surest safeguard, and perhaps after what we have experienced, no people would be more inexcusable should we be found in this respect unprovided for emergencies: and I am confident from the zeal you have shewn to forward the increase and welfare of the province, you will not delay to make use of resources within your power, for fixing its stability.

“ The unremitting attention of government to our interests and situation is also strongly manifested by the arrival of Commissioners amongst us to examine into the losses and services of the loyalists. It is now in the power of the Petitioners to establish their claims without leaving the province, and numbers to whom the national bounty could not otherwise have been extended, will in consequence of this measure, be enabled to carry on their improvements with double ardor.

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