

Upper-Canada Gazette Extra.

S P E E C H

Of His Excellency the Lieut. Governor of Upper-Canada,
at the Opening of the Legislature.

YORK, TUESDAY, 4th February 1817.

This day at 2 o'clock, His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, came in State to the Legislative Council, and being seated on the Throne, the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod was sent down to the House of Assembly to command their attendance before His Excellency: and the Members being come up, the Honorable Speaker of the Legislative Council signified His Excellency's pleasure that they should return to the usual place of their sitting, and there choose a fit person to be their Speaker, and present him for His Excellency's approbation.

The Members of the House of Assembly having retired, Allan Mc Lean, Esquire, Member for the County of Frontenac, was proposed for the Speaker and elected unanimously.

The Members then returned to the Upper House, when His Excellency was pleased to deliver the following SPEECH.

Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly.

I CANNOT congratulate you on any favorable change in the Health of Our Revered Sovereign!

Under the Regency of the Heir Apparent, the United Kingdom has attained the Summit of National Prosperity:—Its last Act has been to Compel the Abolition of Christian Slavery in the Piratical States of Barbary; to whose tyranny the Chief Nations of Europe had submitted for Ages!

The return of universal Peace, after the usual interruption of Arts and Commerce, in a protracted state of Warfare, has ever been hailed as the harbinger of Plenty and Happiness! This does not appear to be the immediate effect of Peace at this Crisis; symptoms of distress have been manifest in many parts of the United Kingdom; Such a result was to be apprehended from the unexampled Prosperity of the Nation during more than Twenty Years of War!

While opposed to all Europe, or supporting all Europe, against the gigantic efforts of one Nation towards Universal Monarchy, the United Kingdom became the Manufacturer, the Banker and the Merchant of the whole World; transmitting through every channel, a Flood of Wealth, which, in a rapid circulation, returned, increasing to the source.—It is not surprising that a sudden stagnation of this Flood of Prosperity, when Peace restored to each Nation a portion of this Monopoly, should have occasioned temporary disorder!

Let us hope the remedies applied by the undivided attention of the Imperial Parliament, will soon restore every part of the Empire to the full enjoyment of the blessings of uninterrupted Peace. In the mean time, it is incumbent upon us, Her Fostered Children, to mark our grateful sense of past Support and Protection, by every alleviation of her Burden, which may be in Our power:—I trust Confidently that no exertion will be wanting to fulfil a duty so Sacred!

Gentlemen of the House of Assembly;

I shall direct the proper Officer to lay before You the usual Accounts of the receipt and expenditure of the Provincial Revenue.

Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly;

I derived much satisfaction from observing in my progress through the Province, that the liberal appropriation, made by the last Session, for the improvement of the Roads, has been, in general, judiciously applied.—The Water Communication of the River St. Lawrence, below Prescott, is also deserving of your serious consideration.

Your Address to His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, on the subject of Revenue and Intercourse with Lower Canada, has been transmitted; but no Session of the Imperial Parliament having interposed, I could not be made acquainted with the result,—I shall therefore use the means in my power to correct the evil complained of, by the mediation of Commissioners, should the Legislature of Lower Canada revive the Provisions to that effect.

There seems to be doubts of the sufficiency of the late Crops to supply the wants of the Province, should the export of Grain be continued;—it may, therefore, be expedient to re-enact the Statute heretofore made, on the existence of similar doubts.

The British Statute subjecting Lands to be Assets for satisfaction of Debt, has, in its operation, produced questions of such importance as to appear worthy of Legislative interference.

I must call your attention to such Laws as have expired, or are about to expire, and to consider the propriety of their revival or continuance.

There may be many other subjects requiring Legislative Provision: I can assure you of my cordial co-operation, to carry into effect any Laws which you may devise, tending to the improvement of the Wealth, Happiness and Morals of the People, and the General Prosperity of the Province!!!