

Tuesday, 5th March, 1839.

FOURTH SESSION, THIRTEENTH PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT, 2nd VICTORIA.

prosperity, which arises from the gracious assurances of our beloved Sovereign, conveyed through Your Excellency, of Her Majesty's continued protection and support to Her Majesty's Upper Canadian people.

We concur most fully with Your Excellency, in seeing the necessity of having the means always at hand to repel and punish hostile aggression, and for the purpose of enabling the loyal people of this Province to be at all times ready to aid in the public defence. We shall cheerfully concur in any measures for the improvement of the Law relating to the Militia, which will tend to place that force upon the best possible footing, so as to render it constantly and promptly efficient, but not burthensome either to the Government or the people.

We strongly participate in the feelings with which Your Excellency has discharged the arduous duty which devolved upon you, in the disposal of the numerous criminals who have fallen into the hands of Justice; and we are perfectly satisfied, that the law has been administered, under the direction of Her Majesty's Government, and of Your Excellency, with an anxious regard for the public safety, and the legitimate ends of punishment—and at the same time, with distinguished mercy, forbearance and humanity.

We deeply lament the damages suffered by Her Majesty's Subjects, through the violence and rapacity of the lawless population of a neighbouring Country. We regret that these together form an aggregate of extensive loss, most serious to the sufferers, and occasion many urgent claims for redress; and we shall, without loss of time, give the subject our deliberate attention, with a view of obtaining for the sufferers early compensation—and in the hope, that the wrongs done to Her Majesty's Subjects in this Province, will speedily claim the just and humane consideration of Her Majesty's Government.

It gives us great pleasure to learn from Your Excellency, that Her Majesty has been most graciously pleased to extend to the wounded Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Men, of the Provincial Militia, in arms since the insurrection last winter, the same liberal provision as is granted to Her Majesty's Regular Land and Naval Forces, and to make a similar beneficent provision for the widows of those Officers in the Provincial Corps who may have fallen in action.

We see, with Your Excellency, that the strongly excited feelings, to which the long agitated question of the Clergy Reserves has given rise in the Province, have sensibly impaired that social harmony, which may be classed among the first of national blessings, and have augmented the hopes of the enemies of the Country, in proportion as they have created divisions among its defenders, and we feel, that on every account, the settlement of this vitally important question, ought not to be longer delayed; we will, therefore, consider how this desirable object may be attained, with a due regard to the interests of the community at large.

While we freely express our entire concurrence in the reasons which Your Excellency has shown for desiring an early settlement of this important question, we cannot but rejoice that the hopes of our enemies have proved fallacious, and that the loyal people of Upper Canada, in the time of actual danger, laid aside all internal differences on this and other subjects, and united together to repel a foreign enemy, whose interference in our domestic difficulties, could neither be desired or tolerated.

With Your Excellency, we deem the subject of general Education one of vital importance to the best interests of society, and believe that a system of sound and religious instruction, for the rising generation, ought to be established under every Government, and is most particularly requisite in a young country, in the condition of this Province.

We will thankfully receive from Your Excellency the answers which Her Majesty has been graciously pleased to return to the several Addresses, which passed the two Houses of Parliament during the last Session.

We doubt not but that Your Excellency has exercised the power vested in you, by the suspension of the *Habeas Corpus* Act, with the greatest caution, and with a sincere desire that no restraint might be imposed on personal liberty, beyond what was imperatively demanded for the public safety.

Your Excellency justly observes, that the progress which this beautiful Country seems destined to make in population and wealth, has been materially obstructed by the difficulties and dangers with which it has, for some time past, been surrounded.