

“ His Excellency the Governor General thanks Her Majesty’s dutiful and loyal Subjects, accepts their benevolence, and assents to this Bill, in Her Majesty’s name.”

Then His Excellency the Governor General was pleased to deliver the following Speech:—

*Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council ;  
Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly ;*

The Session which is on the point of closing will have been marked by the adoption of measures of the highest importance.

An Act assented to by my predecessor has finally settled the long pending dispute with regard to the Clergy Reserves ; and it has done so in such a manner as to vindicate liberal principles, whilst it treats the rights of individuals with just and considerate regard.

The same may I trust be said of another most important Law. The Act for the abolition of the Seigniorial Tenure. Great changes cannot be made without some hardship, but *Canada* will appear in history as the only country in the world in which the feudal system has expired without violence and revolution.

The Treaty between *Great Britain* and our neighbors in the *United States*, negotiated by the Earl of *Elgin*, has been brought into operation, and the Country already feels the benefit of reciprocal trade.

You have provided for the defence of the Province by an improved organization of Militia and Volunteers.

The Public Accounts will be submitted to a new and more efficient audit.

I may congratulate you on the reforms in the Post Office Department. The free transmission of Newspapers shows your zeal for the diffusion of intelligence.

The judicious alterations in the Tariff have lessened taxation and promoted trade. You will thus with a proper caution have husbanded the resources of the Country, so as to enable it hereafter to meet its engagements, and carry out its material improvements, notwithstanding a commercial crisis or financial disturbance, whether originating in war or other causes.

The Municipal Institutions of *Western Canada*, have stood the test of actual experience ; and you cannot doubt their success if fairly carried out in the lower section of this Province. Nor have other legal reforms of great importance and value escaped the attention of the Legislature during the present Session.

Our system of Railways has required your special consideration, and however much we may regret the necessity for a further advance of Provincial funds, we