

JOURNAL.

4th Session 13th Parliament, 2d Victoria, 27th February, 1839.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,

WEDNESDAY, 27th February, 1839.

The House met.

At two of the clock, P. M., Frederick Starr Jarvis, Esquire, Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, came to the Bar of the House, and delivered the commands of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, for the immediate attendance of the House at the Bar of the Legislative Council Chamber, and withdrew.

Black Rod summons House to wait on His Exc'y at Bar of Leg. Council Chamber.

The Speaker, Officers, and Members present, proceeded without delay to the Legislative Council Chamber, and being returned,

Mr. Speaker reported that His Excellency had been pleased to open the Session with a most gracious Speech from the Throne, of which, to prevent mistakes, he had procured a copy, and which, with the permission of the House, he would now read:

Speaker reports His Excellency's speech.

The Speech was then read, as follows:

*Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council: and,
Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:*

The internal tranquillity of the Province, and the present security of its Frontier enable me after a recess of unusual length, to meet you in Provincial Parliament. The postponement of the present Session has been induced by the pressing and paramount duties, in which many of you have been engaged, connected with the public defence, and the administration of justice. But we have now an opportunity to turn our attention to devising measures for the peace, welfare and good government of the colony, free from the paralyzing suspicion of internal treachery, or the exasperating influence of foreign aggressions—and upon this happy result of the zeal, constancy and bravery, of the loyal Upper Canadian people, under the most trying circumstances, I offer you my hearty congratulations.

Speech at opening of Session.

The situation of the Province is so novel and peculiar, that I feel called upon to exceed the ordinary limits of a speech at the opening of Parliament, in order to review recent occurrences, and to trace effects to their causes, as a guide to present and future legislation.

England, at peace with all the world, and relying implicitly, not only on the loyalty of her North American subjects, but on the faith of treaties, and the existence of most friendly relations with the United States, had gradually withdrawn most of her troops from this continent.

Encouraged by this absence of military power, the discontented in Lower Canada, after a long and vexatious parliamentary opposition, and an obstinate rejection of every conciliatory effort on the part of the Government, at last broke out into open rebellion; and incited by their example, the disaffected in this Province, confidently relying on assistance from the neighbouring frontier, and secure, in the event of failure, of finding an asylum there, made a sudden attempt to overthrow this government, and sever the Canadas from the Parent State.

The hopes of the disaffected in both Provinces, however, met with signal disappointment; and in Upper Canada particularly, the militia were found not only equal to the immediate suppression of insurrection, but a portion of its force, from the Eastern District, was enabled to march into Lower Canada, to assist in overawing the disposition to revolt, which still existed there.

Such would have been the end of rebellion in Upper Canada, had not the disaffection, which grew originally out of the hope of foreign interference, continued to receive life and support from the same source. The repose gained was of short continuance, for no sooner had some of the leading traitors escaped across the boundary, than they associated themselves with a number of the border population—robbed the public arsenals there—and made several audacious, but signally unsuccessful attempts, to invade and make a lodgment on British territory.