

any just claims to become the seat of government—Quebec and Toronto. Both had been the Capital of their respective Provinces from the very first. They possessed every necessary convenience, and the great interests which had grown up in each respectively from the fact of their being the seat of Government required favourable consideration.

Among many other reasons urged for assembling Parliament alternately at Quebec and Toronto were the following: "Representatives of Eastern and Western Canada would thus become acquainted with the respective inhabitants; their habits and views, their wants and expectations, and so become able to understand their just desires; and to adopt such measures as would, without violence to any feelings, or even prejudices, transform the two Provinces, in a reasonable time, into one people."

It was also urged that many of the inhabitants of the late provinces of Lower and Upper Canada, relying on the emphatic language of his late Majesty King William the Fourth, "that a union of the provinces of Upper and Lower Canada was not a measure fit to be recommended to Parliament," and therefore not anticipating any such enactment did, under the conviction that Toronto and Quebec would continue the seats of government in their respective provinces, expend the greater part of their means on fixed property, and will, therefore, be impoverished, and many of them exposed to the greatest sacrifices should the seat of government be wholly removed.

Among the members who voted against the alternative system were Derbshire, representing Bytown and Johnston representing Carleton.

In the following session (1842) a despatch was received from Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies explaining that Her Majesty was unwilling to make a choice of the seat of government of Canada unless Parliament pledged itself to provide funds for the erection of public buildings.

Among several resolutions that were voted on in that