

The Hon. the SPEAKER commanded the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod to proceed to the House of Commons, and acquaint that House it is the pleasure of the Hon. William Johnstone Ritchie, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada, Deputy Governor, they attend him immediately in this House.

Who, being come,

The Hon. the SPEAKER said :

Hon. Gentlemen of the Senate :

Gentlemen of the House of Commons :

The Hon. William Johnstone Ritchie, Deputy Governor, does not see fit to declare the causes of his summoning the present Parliament of Canada until a Speaker of the House of Commons shall have been chosen according to law, but to-morrow at the hour of 3 o'clock in the afternoon, His Excellency the Governor General will declare the causes of his calling this Parliament.

The Deputy Governor then retired, and the House of Commons withdrew.

The House adjourned at 3.20 p.m.

THE SENATE.

Friday, February 14, 1879.

The Members of the Senate assembled at 2:45 P. M.

PRAYERS.

The House was adjourned during pleasure.

After some time the House was resumed.

His Excellency the Governor General being seated in the Chair on the Throne,

The Honorable the Speaker commanded the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod to proceed to the House of Commons and acquaint that House—"It is His Excellency's pleasure they attend him immediately in this House."

Who, being come,

The Speech.

The Honorable JOSEPH GODERIC BLANCHET said :

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—

The House of Commons have elected me as their Speaker, though I am but little able to fulfil the important duties thus assigned to me.

If, in the performance of those duties, I should at any time fall into error, I pray that the fault may be imputed to me, and not to the Commons, whose servant I am, and who through me, the better to enable them to discharge their duty to their Queen and Country, humbly claim all their undoubted rights and privileges, especially that they may have freedom of speech in their debates, access to Your Excellency's person at all seasonable times, and that their proceedings may receive from Your Excellency the most favorable consideration.

The Honorable the Speaker of this House then said :

MR. SPEAKER,—I am commanded by His Excellency the Governor-General to declare to you that he freely confides in the duty and attachment of the House of Commons to Her Majesty's Person and Government; and, not doubting that their proceedings will be conducted with wisdom, temper and prudence, he grants, and upon all occasions will recognize and allow, their constitutional privileges. I am commanded, also, to assure you that the Commons shall have ready access to His Excellency upon all seasonable occasions, and that their proceedings, as well as your words and actions, will constantly receive from him the most favorable construction.

THE SPEECH FROM THE THRONE.

His Excellency the Governor-General was then pleased to open the Session by a gracious speech to both Houses :

Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate :

Gentlemen of the House of Commons :

In meeting the Parliament of Canada for the first time, I desire to express the gratification I feel at having been selected by Her Majesty for the high and important office I now fill, and to assure you of the great satisfaction with which I now seek your aid and co-operation.

In acknowledging with profound gratitude the reception which has been accorded to myself, as Her Majesty's representative, I am also commanded by The Queen to convey, through you, to the people of Canada, Her thanks for the loyal, generous, and kindly manner in which they have welcomed Her daughter.

The contribution of Canadian products and manufactures to the great National Exhibition at Paris, last year, attracted much attention, and, it is believed, will have a beneficial effect