

The Honourable the Speaker presented to the Senate a communication from the Governor General's Secretary.

The same was then read by the Clerk, and it is as follows:—

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR GENERAL'S SECRETARY, CANADA.

OTTAWA, 20th January, 1909.

SIR,—I have the honour to inform you that His Excellency the Governor General will proceed to the Senate Chamber, to formally open the Session of the Dominion Parliament, on Thursday, the 21st instant, at 3 o'clock.

I have the honour to be, Sir,  
Your obedient servant,

J. HANBURY-WILLIAMS, Colonel,  
*Governor General's Secretary.*

The Honourable  
The Speaker of the Senate.

The Senate was adjourned during pleasure.

His Excellency the Right Honourable Sir Albert Henry George, Earl Grey, Viscount Howick, Baron Grey of Howick, in the County of Northumberland, in the Peerage of the United Kingdom, and a Baronet; Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, and a Knight Grand Cross of the Royal Victorian Order, &c., &c., Governor General and Commander in Chief of the Dominion of Canada, being seated on the Throne.

The Honourable the Speaker commanded the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod to proceed to the House of Commons and acquaint that House that,—“It is His Excellency's pleasure that they attend him immediately in the Senate.”

Who being come, with their Speaker,  
The Honourable Charles Marcell said:—

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY:

The House of Commons has elected me 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 King 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 favourable consideration.

The Honourable the Speaker of the Senate then said:—

MR. SPEAKER,—I am commanded by His Excellency the Governor General to declare to you that he fully confides in the duty and attachment of the House of Commons to His 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 favourable construction.

His Excellency the Governor General was then pleased to open the Session by a Gracious Speech to both Houses:—