

We beg to congratulate your Excellency on your appointment to the government of these important colonies, and on your arrival in this province. The appointment of a statesman of your Excellency's acknowledged abilities to this government we receive as an earnest of the desire of Her Majesty to further the interests, welfare, and prosperity of this portion of her dominions; and we tender to your Excellency the assurance of our firm support to your administration, based, as we trust it will be, on strict principles of justice to all classes of Her Majesty's subjects, with the view of allaying existing discontents, and binding more closely the connexion which now so happily exists between these colonies and the Mother Country.

The allusion which your Excellency has been pleased to make in your proclamation of 19th October, to the loyalty and courage of the inhabitants of this province, we have read with unmingled feelings of satisfaction, and it will be to us a source of pride at all times to look back to the period, when, by their united efforts, the loyal inhabitants of this province, aided in preserving to the British crown these important appendages.

Amply endowed as this country is by nature with all the elements necessary to secure to its inhabitants every earthly blessing, it is deeply to be lamented that discontent should so generally prevail; and inhabiting as we do a remote but fertile and beautiful section of the province, labouring under many disadvantages from the want of local improvements, we feel that to some cause must be ascribed our unhappy condition, for which your Excellency, with the co-operation of the people of the province, has it in your power to suggest and apply a remedy. The practical difficulties under which we labour are to be traced to the manner in which the government of the province has hitherto been administered; to the system of favouritism observable in the distribution of the government patronage, fostering a party to the prejudice of the general interests and welfare of the community; to the prodigality of the dominant faction in the management of the revenues of the colony, now reduced to bankruptcy; and to a variety of other causes, which cannot conveniently be enumerated in an address. Had the government of the colony been administered heretofore with that spirit of liberality, and with that regard for the general welfare of the people, which as British subjects we might expect in a British colony, there is every reason to assert that the state of the country would be widely different from what it now is. It is our ardent desire, therefore, that the government of the country shall hereafter be administered in accordance with the principles and practice of the British constitution, and that there shall be secured to all her Majesty's faithful subjects in these colonies the full enjoyment of British rights.

We look forward with confidence to important changes for the benefit of the country, and to your Excellency, as the exalted instrument by whom those changes are to be introduced. We rely upon the magnanimity and justice of her Majesty's government to do all that in them lies to restore confidence, and to secure peace and prosperity to these provinces; and whatever the contemplated changes may be, we have too much reliance on your Excellency's sense of justice to suppose that they will be attempted without in the first place affording the yeomanry of the country an opportunity of considering them through their representatives in provincial parliament; and for that purpose your Excellency is respectfully requested to dissolve the present parliament, in which the people generally do not repose confidence.

We beg to renew our assurances of attachment to our gracious Queen, and of co-operation with your Excellency, in whatever may tend to secure the general welfare and happiness of this community.

(Signed) ELMES STEELE, Chairman.
GEO. TUDHOPE, Secretary.

REPLY.

SIR, I AM commanded by his Excellency, the Governor-General, to inform you that the Address from the inhabitants of several townships in the county of Simcoe, which accompanied your letter to me of the 19th instant, was received at this office yesterday.

His Excellency desires me to express his satisfaction at the sentiments of loyalty and attachment to our Sovereign, contained in this address, and his thanks for the congratulations on his arrival in Canada. It is his Excellency's first wish, in the discharge of the important duties committed to him, to exercise his authority with a strict regard to the interests of all classes of her Majesty's subjects. While it is his determination firmly to maintain the authority of the crown, it is his anxious desire to adopt such measures as may tend to knit more closely the ties which unite these provinces to the Parent State. His Excellency will devote his best attention to the agricultural and commercial interests of the province, in the hope that he may be able to adopt such measures as may remove its present embarrassments, and develop its great natural resources; and he looks with confidence to the support of the inhabitants of Upper Canada in the measures which he may adopt for the public welfare.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. W. C. MURDOCH,
Chief Secretary.

Capt. Elmes Steele, R.N.
&c. &c. &c.

No. 37.
Right Hon.
C. P. Thomson to
Lord John Russell.
December 6, 1839.

Enclosure.