

It is gratifying to find that this complaint is connected with a frank acknowledgement, that the power in question has been beneficially exercised on several occasions for the prosperity of Lower Canada. It is, I fear, an unavoidable consequence of the connection which happily subsists between the two countries, that Parliament should occasionally require of the Commercial body of Lower Canada, some mutual sacrifices for the general good of the Empire at large. I therefore shall not attempt to deny that the changes in the commercial policy of this Kingdom during the last few years, may have been productive of occasional inconvenience and loss to that body, since scarcely any particular interest can be mentioned in Great Britain, of which some sacrifice has not been required during the same period. The most which can be effected by Legislation on such a subject as this, is a steady though gradual advance towards those great objects, which an enlightened system of commercial regulation contemplates. The relaxation of restrictions on the trade of the British Colonies, and the developement of their resources, have been kept steadfastly in view amidst all the alterations to which the Address refers, and I confidently rely on the candour of the *House of Assembly* to admit, that upon the whole, no inconsiderable advance towards those great ends, has been made. They may rest assured that the same principles will be steadily borne in mind by His Majesty's Government, in every modification of the existing Laws, which they may at any future time have occasion to recommend to Parliament.

Sixthly.—The Assembly in their Address, proceed to state that the Inhabitants of the different Towns, Parishes, Townships, extra Parochial places, and Counties of the Province, suffer from the want of sufficient legal power for regulating and managing their local concerns.

I am happy in the opportunity, which at present presents itself, of demonstrating the desire of His Majesty's Government, to co-operate with the local Legislature, in the redress of every grievance of this nature. The three Bills which Your Lordship reserved for the signification of His Majesty's pleasure, in the last Session of the Assembly, for establishing the Parochial divisions of the Province, and for the Incorporation of the Cities of Quebec and Montreal, will be confirmed, and finally enacted by His Majesty in Council with the least possible delay, and I expect to be able very shortly to transmit to Your Lordship the necessary Orders in Council, for that purpose.

I very sincerely regret that the Bill passed for the legal establishment of Parishes in the month of March 1829, should have been defeated by the delay which occurred in transmitting the official confirmation by the King in Council, many months elapsed after its arrival in this Kingdom, before that form could be observed, and His late Majesty's protracted illness, delayed still longer the bringing it under the consideration of the King in Council.

If it should be the opinion of the Colonial Legislature that additional provisions are wanting to enable the local authorities in Counties, Cities or Parishes, to regulate their own more immediate affairs, Your Lordship will understand that you are at liberty to assent, in His Majesty's name, to any well considered Laws which may be presented to you for that purpose.

Seventhly.—I proceed to the next subject of Complaint, which is, that uncertainty and confusion has been introduced into the Laws for the security and regulation of property, by the intermixture of different Codes of Laws and Rules of proceeding in the Courts of Justice.

The intermixture to which the Address refers, so far as I am aware, arises from the English Criminal Code having been maintained by the British Statute of 1774, and from the various Acts of Parliament which have introduced into the Province the Soccage Tenure, and subjected all Lands so holden to the English rules of alienation and descent.

As a mere matter of fact, there can be no doubt, that the infusion of these parts of the Law of England into the Provincial Code, was dictated by the most sincere