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of the political rights which, under constitutional Government, consist in the free and unrestrained exercise of the right of suffrage, the Commons have punished with just severity several of these Officers.

The Municipal system of *Lower Canada* has been thoroughly remodelled. More comprehensive and practical enactments, granting greater freedom of action will facilitate Municipal organization throughout the Country. It is much to be desired that the people, accustoming themselves to depend upon their own efforts, should employ their local influence in the development of their local resources and interests. The Legislature, by the enactment of an order of things tending to engraft upon the customs and usages of the people the necessity of the administration and Government of the Municipality by the people themselves, has placed in their hands the most active and powerful means of material and political advancement.

The Commons have hastened to give their sanction to the Acts necessary for the establishment of commercial reciprocity between the *United States* and *Canada*.

This Legislation and the numerous Laws which have been passed to facilitate the means of communication and of commerce in general, lead to the hope that the prosperity which *Canada* has enjoyed for several years past, will not suffer any diminution.

The struggle which *England* and *France* are sustaining against *Russia* in the cause of civilization has aroused the deepest sympathies of our population, and the Commons have thought proper to manifest their sympathy by coming forward in a liberal spirit to the assistance of the victims of the War.

The Commons desirous of rendering the second branch of the Legislature more in harmony with public opinion, and with our social system have declared that that branch ought to be rendered elective, but we regret that the two deliberative bodies of the State were unable to arrive at the same conclusion on these points.

To enable your Government to defray the expenses of the public service, the Commons in their liberality have voted the Supplies required.

The Bills which I have had the honor to present to Your Excellency on this subject, are intituled, "An Act to amend the Act granting a Civil List to Her Majesty by increasing the salaries of certain Judicial Functionaries and other Officers therein mentioned, and to fix those of certain other Public Officers," and "An Act for granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money required for defraying certain expenses of the Civil Government for the year 1855, and certain other expenses connected with the Public Service," and I pray that these Bills may receive the Royal sanction.

To each of these Bills the Clerk of this House, by His Excellency's command, did thereupon say:—