

a cheerful endurance of labour and privations, and for alertness and bravery in war. There is no thought of endeavouring to break up a system which sustains a dense rural population without the existence of any class of poor. England will protect and foster the benevolent, active and pious priesthood under whose care, and by whose examples so much of order, of good conduct and of tranquil bliss is created, preserved and handed down from generation to generation.

Of the British, and especially of the commercial classes, I would ask, is it possible you should suppose that there can be any design to sacrifice your interests, when it is clear to all the world that commerce is one of the main supports to the British system of finance, that without it this wonderful fabric of British power and dominion would crumble into dust; and that it is especially the object and purpose for which, at a vast expense, the mighty colonies of England are maintained in every quarter of the globe? Rely upon it, that the great and powerful country from whence you have removed yourselves to these shores, will not abandon there the policy which has established the prosperity of her people in every other region; and that a Government, of which constancy and good faith are the main elements of power, will not fail to sustain in this portion of the empire the spirit of that Constitution which has so long been held out as a boon to its natives, and an inducement to the settlers who have embarked in it their enterprise, their wealth and their hopes of individual happiness.

In a declaration put forth by many among you who inhabit this city, I have seen the following objects enumerated: First to obtain for persons of British and Irish origin and others His Majesty's subjects labouring under the same privations of common rights, a fair and reasonable proportion of the representation in the Provincial Assembly: Secondly, to obtain such a reform in the system of judicature, and the administration of justice as may adapt them to the present state of the province: Thirdly, to obtain such a composition of the Executive Council as may impart to it the efficiency and weight which it ought to possess: Fourthly, to resist any appointment of members of the Legislative Council otherwise than by the Crown, but subject to such regulation as may ensure the appointment of fit persons: Fifthly, to use every effort to maintain the connexion of this Colony with the parent state, and a just subordination to its authority; and Sixthly, to assist in preserving and maintaining peace and good order throughout the province, and ensuring the equal rights of His Majesty's subjects of all classes. If these objects are indeed all that are desired by the whole commercial interest, I trust it will be satisfactory to those who aim at them to know that there is not one of them which is not strictly within the line of duty of the King's Commissioners to take into consideration, to receive respecting them the fullest evidence and information which may be offered, and finally to submit to our Gracious Sovereign and His Ministers their impartial and well-weighed conclusions.

To the Canadians, both of French and British origin, and of every class and description, I would say, consider the blessings you might enjoy, and the favoured situation in which but for your own dissensions you would find yourselves to be placed. The offspring of the two foremost nations of mankind, you hold a vast and beautiful country, a fertile soil, a healthy climate; and the noblest river in the world makes your most remote city a port for ships of the sea. Your revenue is triple the amount of your expenditure for the ordinary purposes of government; you have no direct taxes, no public debt, no poor who require any other aid than the natural impulses of charity. If you extend your views beyond the land in which you dwell, you will find that you are joint inheritors of the splendid patrimony of the British Empire, which constitutes you, in the best sense of the term, citizens of the world, and gives you a home on every continent and in every ocean of the globe. There are two paths open to you,—by the one you may advance to the enjoyment of all the advantages which lie in prospect before you; by the other, I will not say more, than that you will stop short of these, and will engage yourselves and those who have no other object than your prosperity, in darker and more difficult courses.

Enclosure 2, in No. 1.

To his Excellency the Right Honourable Earl of Gosford, &c. &c. &c.

May it please your Excellency:

WE, His Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Legislative Council of Lower Canada, in Provincial Parliament assembled, beg leave to return your Excellency our thanks for your speech from the throne on opening the present session of the Legislature.

We feel the importance of the circumstances under which your Excellency meets us; amidst difficulties which have arisen in the province, and of late years have produced embarrassments in the administration of the Government in consequence of the withholding of the supplies which are required for defraying the expenses of the civil establishment, and for carrying the law into effect, of which the due execution affords the surest pledge for the happiness and security of society.

We trust that His Majesty's views, as well as the means he has taken to make an inquiry on the spot, may have the effect, by making known the true state of things, of facilitating to His Majesty's Government the means of remedying the grievances of which the subjects of His Majesty in this province may have to complain, and of satisfying their just demands.

It becomes our duty to express our gratitude for the views and intentions, and for the lively solicitude of His Majesty towards this province, as communicated to us by your Excellency,

Enclosure 1,
in No. 1.

Enclosure 2,
in No. 1.