

PROVINCIAL REGISTER.

L O W E R - C A N A D A .

QUEBEC; December 17th.

THIS day both Houses of Legislature of the Province of Lower-Canada met for the first time under the new Act.—The house of Assembly proceeded immediately to the election of a Speaker, and J. A. Panet Esquire, was called to the chair by a majority of ten voices.

Thursday 20.—The members of the Lower House waited on his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor in the Council Chamber, and presented to him their Speaker, who was very graciously received. After which his Excellency was pleased to deliver the following speech to both Houses.

*Gentlemen of the Legislative Council,
And Gentlemen of the House of Assembly.*

OUR most Gracious Sovereign, always watchful over the happiness of His People, having taken into consideration the condition of His Loyal subjects of this Province and recommended them to His Parliament for such change in their Colonial Government as circumstances might require and admit, the Act was passed that has made it my duty, as it is my pride, to meet you in General Assembly, which I have endeavoured to do at a season least inconvenient to your private interests.

On a day like this, signalized by the commencement in this country of that form of Government which has raised the Kingdom, to which it is subordinate, to the highest elevation, it is impossible not to feel emotions difficult to be expressed.

However pleasant the task, it cannot be a necessary one on the present occasion, to display the fitness of this system to promote the felicity all Governments profess to have in view, but is under none so well established as the British, which after having been celebrated for Ages by the first pens of Europe, at this moment gives Great Britain decided and enviable distinctions of real Glory beyond all other Nations of the World.

What I feel on the change that brings us to this memorable Convention, I persuade myself must be a common sentiment with all who have capacity to discern the magnitude of the blessing conferred, and therefore I content myself with barely suggesting, that next to the Gratitude due for it to the Almighty Arbiter of the Universe, we cannot sufficiently extol the Magnanimity and Grace of the King, the common Father of His People, and of that Parliament who have so generously co-operated for that establishment which is most deservedly the subject of our general joy.

To give an opportunity for your loyal and grateful acknowledgements to His Majesty is one of my motives for calling you together, and that debt discharged, your Councils will, doubtless, be next employed for enacting the Laws necessary to confirm and augment the prosperity of your Country.

Gentlemen