

TO THE ELECTORS

OF

NORFOLK,

GENTLEMEN,

Deeply sensible of the great responsibilities resting upon a Representative of the people at the present juncture, and diffident in my ability to serve them as efficiently as circumstances require; it would have been more grateful to my feelings to have joined you in the Election of some one better qualified to represent your feelings and interests in the United Parliament, than to stand as a Candidate for your suffrages:—but the exigence of the times requiring that all personal considerations be measurably sacrificed to the public weal, it would ill comport with the deep interest I feel for the prosperity of my Native County, should I not respond to the unanimous call of the large and respectable committee who met at Sitchœ on the 19th instant.—Actuated therefore by this impression, I accept the nomination so handsomely made, and will meet you at the hustings (Providence permitting) at the next General Election ready and determined, should I be the Candidate of your choice, to serve you to the best of my ability.

In the Annals of Canadian history there perhaps, never was a time fraught with greater good or greater evil to these Provinces than the present. We have had the repeated assurance of Her Majesty's Representative, that it will be his earnest endeavour to conduct his administration in accordance with the wishes of the people.—Upon the choice therefore made by the people of the United Province of their Representatives, will in a great measure depend the future policy to be adopted for their government;—it is consequently necessary that you should be made fully acquainted with the opinions of any and every Candidate who may be put forward for your suffrages.

In the sincerity and good intention of the Governor General, I have much confidence, and if returned by you, shall feel it to be my duty and your interests to meet him in Parliament in a conciliatory spirit; so far as it can be done consistent with a due regard to the future prosperity of the United Province, and the civil and religious liberty of the people.

The principle of *Responsible Government*, as set forth in the Report of the late and lamented Earl of Durham, has my warmest admiration and assent.—Nor can I perceive any material difference between the system there laid down and the spirit of Lord John Russell's Dispatches, the ultimate object of both being the same—"harmony" between the Executive & the Representatives of the people.—No written law exists in the Mother Country, compelling a retirement of the Queen's

Advisers whenever they shall fail to obtain for any measure a concurrence of a majority in the House of Commons, else the present popular Ministry would recently have had to surrender their seals of office to high church partizans, as there were on several questions, respectable majorities against them—but when the *general measures* of a ministry become so obnoxious as to call forth an expression of the disapprobation of the Commons by a vote of want of confidence, a new & less objectionable Ministry is at once formed; and by these means "harmony" is preserved.—For this boon to the people of United Canada (in spirit at least) I shall feel it my duty & privilege to contend, fully believing that without the introduction of this principle, "the working of the representative system cannot in any country be rendered harmonious and efficient."

As to the Question of the Clergy Reserves, that fruitful source of disquietude should the present impolitic disposition of them call forth remonstrances from the people by petitions to the House of Assembly against their misapplication; I will be found advocating the principles of toleration and religious freedom by supporting the voluntary system—I am altogether averse to Church and State connection, believing that their union is injurious to both, and am of opinion that more real good would result to the Province by the proceeds of those lands being appropriated to educational and general purposes, than to the production of the feuds and jealousies which their present unequal distribution is so eminently calculated to create.

Upon the subject of local and general improvements.—The importation of grain provision, &c., from a foreign country.—The alien and other vexatious laws upon our statute book.—The objectionable details in the Imperial act uniting the Upper and Lower Provinces.—The contemplated introduction of municipal laws, by which the people may to a greater extent than at present, manage their own local affairs, and respecting all general Provincial measures, I can only say in general terms that, that policy having for its effect the production of the most good to the greatest number, will have me for its most unflinching advocate.

At the Poll, or at any prior period I shall be most happy to give any further explanation of my views, that may be required.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient
and very humble servant.
ISRAEL W. POWELL.

23. Decr. 1840