

Her Majesty The Queen, Our Most Gracious Sovereign, having failed in Her anxious and protracted endeavours to preserve for Her people the blessings of peace, has felt Herself called upon, by regard for an Ally, the integrity and independence of whose Empire have been recognized as essential to the peace of *Europe*, by the sympathies of Her people with right against wrong, and by a desire to avert from Her dominions most injurious consequences, to take up arms in conjunction with the Emperor of the French, for the defence of the Sultan. The manifestations of loyalty to the Sovereign, and sympathy with the Parent State, which have been so general throughout the Province at this conjuncture, will, I am confident, be heartily responded to by the Legislature. The cordial co-operation of *England* and *France* in this war is well calculated to call forth the sympathies of the inhabitants of a country peopled mainly by the descendants of those two powerful Empires.

Having during my recent visit to *England* being honored by The Queen's command to endeavour to effect the settlement of various important questions bearing upon the interests of the *British North American Provinces*, which had been long pending between the Governments of *Great Britain* and the *United States*, I proceeded to *Washington*, where, after frank discussion with the Authorities of the *United States*, I was enabled to conclude a Treaty which now awaits ratification, upon terms which it is my firm conviction will prove in the highest degree advantageous to the Colonies generally, as well as to the *United States*. A measure to give effect to that Treaty will be submitted for your approval.

I will communicate to you a Despatch which I have received from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, with reference to the Addresses to The Queen from the two Houses of the Legislature, on the subject of the Constitution of the Legislative Council, transmitted by me at the close of the last Session of the Provincial Parliament, in order that they might be laid at the foot of the Throne.

I recommend to your consideration the passing of a law for bringing into early operation the Act of last Session which extends the Elective Franchise, in order that a constitutional expression of opinion may be obtained as speedily as possible under the system of representation recently established, on the various important questions on which legislation is required.

Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly,

The Public Accounts for the past year, and the Estimates for the present year, will be submitted to you without delay; and I rely with confidence on your willingness to make the necessary provision for the exigencies of the Government.

The prosperous condition of the Revenue may suggest to you the propriety of making such reductions in the Tariff as may be compatible with security to the public creditor, and efficiency in the Public Service.

Honorable Gentlemen and Gentlemen,

During my sojourn in *England*, I was much struck by the proofs which I received from all quarters of increasing interest in *Canadian* affairs, and I trust that my acquaintance with the Province derived from long residence within it, may have enabled me to render some service in spreading more widely a knowledge of its resources and of the feelings of the inhabitants.

Although a state of warfare has a necessary tendency to restrict operations involving large expenditures of capital, I feel confident that the credit of *Canada* has attained a position in English opinion which it never before achieved, and that, to enable you to retain it, nothing is required but prudence in your undertakings and the maintenance of the high character for fidelity to pecuniary engagements which the Province has at all times borne.

Mr. Speaker acquainted the House, That he had received from the Commissioner appointed for the examination of witnesses on the trial of the Petition complaining of an undue Election and Return for the County of *Kamouraska*, a copy of the Minutes of his proceedings under the said Commission.