

*Honorable Gentlemen and Gentlemen,*

In your wisdom and prudence I confide for the regulation of the different important matters which must necessarily come before you. *Canada*, united under a constitution, which the Imperial Legislature has framed with an earnest desire for the welfare of this portion of the British Empire, cannot fail to prosper under prudent and sage counsels. The generous aid which I have already announced to you—the determination which I am also empowered to state on the part of the Government, to devote annually a large sum for the military defences of the Province; the fixed and settled determination which I have the Queen's commands to declare, that her North American possessions shall be maintained at all hazards as part of her empire, are pledges of the sincerity with which the mother country desires to promote the prosperity of *Canada*, and to assist in the well working of the new institutions which it has established. The eyes of *England* are anxiously fixed upon the result of this great experiment. Should it succeed, the aid of Parliament in your undertakings—the confidence of British capitalists in the credit you may require from them—the security which the British people will feel in seeking your shores and establishing themselves upon your fertile soil, may carry improvement to an unexampled height. The rapid advance of trade and immigration, within the last eighteen months, afford ample evidence of the effects of tranquillity in restoring confidence and promoting prosperity. May no dissensions mar the flattering prospect which is open before us—may your efforts be steadily directed to the great practical improvements of which the province stands so much in need, and under the blessing of that Providence which has hitherto preserved this portion of the British dominions, may your counsels be so guided as to ensure to the Queen attached and loyal subjects, and to United *Canada* a prosperous and contented people.

Speech at opening of Session.

On motion of Mr. *Prince*, seconded by Mr. *Thorburn*,

*Ordered*—That five hundred copies, in each of the English and French languages, of His Excellency the Governor General's Speech delivered this day, to both Houses of the Provincial Parliament, be printed for the use of the Members of this House.

Speech to be Printed.

On motion of Mr. *Morris*, seconded by Mr. *Buchanan*,

*Ordered*—That the Speech of His Excellency the Governor General, this day delivered to both Houses of the Provincial Legislature, be referred to a Committee of the whole House on *Friday* next.

Speech referred.

A Petition of *James W. Sharrard* and *Thomas Henry*, Christian Ministers, of the *Home* District, was presented to the House by Mr *Small*, and the same was received and read, setting forth, that Petitioners are believers in the old and new testaments and take the same as the rule of their conduct.

Petition for power to Celebrate Marriage and hold Lands.

That their communicants are about 1200 and congregation about 2500.

That two thirds of their body are British subjects.

That they are not authorized to celebrate matrimony, nor hold lands.

That they desire no greater privileges than other certain religious bodies.

And praying for a law to enable them to celebrate marriage, and hold lands for certain purposes.

And further that they may be heard at the bar upon the subject of their religious belief.

*Ordered*—That the said Petition do lie upon the table.