

"ORDERED, That the Hon. Mr. Birnie, the Hon. Mr. Dingwell and the Hon. Mr. Attorney General be a Committee, on the part of this House, to prepare the said Address.

"ORDERED, That the said Resolution be communicated, by Message, to the House of Assembly."

And then he withdrew.

*Resolved*, That a Committee be appointed, on the part of this House, to join a Committee of the Legislative Council, to take charge of the Government House and Public Furniture.

*Ordered*, That the Hon. Mr. Wightman, Hon. Mr. Palmer, Hon. Mr. Lord and Mr. Macgill do compose the said Committee.

*Ordered*, That the said Resolution be communicated, by Message, to the Legislative Council.

*Ordered*, That the Hon. Mr. Wightman do carry the said Message.

The Hon. Mr. Wightman from the Committee appointed to join the Committee of the Council, to prepare and report the draft of an Address to Her Majesty the Queen, on the subject of the withdrawal of the Troops from this Island, presented to the House the draft of an Address, as prepared by the Joint Committee; which Address being again read at the Clerk's Table, was agreed to by the House, and is as followeth:

TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY;

We, your Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Legislative Council and Assembly of Prince Edward Island, in Colonial Parliament assembled, humbly beg to lay at the foot of the Throne our prayer, that the small portion of your Majesty's land forces, which has been ordinarily stationed in this Island, but which has been recently withdrawn, may be again employed for our protection, or if deemed more expedient, that a company on a similar footing with that in Newfoundland or those in the Canadas may be enrolled.

We humbly conceive that the peculiar circumstances of this Island, whether considered in a geographical, commercial, or political point of view, afford ample cause for a reconsideration of the orders by which your Majesty's Troops have been withdrawn.

It can hardly be necessary to state, that the insular position of this Colony precludes the possibility, during the winter months, of any effectual military assistance reaching it, whilst at other times, and particularly under the new circumstances of the Treaty recently ratified by your Majesty with the United States of America,—which will cause a great influx of foreign fishermen,—the Colony is, in a

peculiar manner, exposed to any sudden ebullition of feeling, on the part of the numbers who will be congregated at different ports.

We are quite aware that your Majesty's being engaged in a foreign war renders it desirable to collect from all parts of your dominions as many Regiments as can be spared to reinforce your armies in the East; nor will we yield to any section of your Majesty's subjects in that loyalty and attachment to your Majesty's Person and Government which will prompt us to adopt every measure in our power to assist your Majesty's Imperial Government in carrying out this object.

But we cannot acquit ourselves of the responsibility which belongs to us, as well towards your Majesty, as to your loyal subjects of this Island, without expressing our apprehension, that the selection of this Island as the only part of your Majesty's North American dominions which your Majesty's ministers are prepared to abandon to its own unaided resources, will cause great dissatisfaction among your Majesty's loyal subjects, its inhabitants; and that it is a measure in our apprehension which might, if absolutely necessary, have fallen with more justice on other of your Majesty's Provinces.

That this is a correct view of the case, may be made apparent by the consideration of the following facts. In the first place, not only have we the smallest revenue, but unlike other Colonies, we have no public lands to dispose of to meet such an emergency;—those which were in the Crown having been disposed of by improvident grants, to the great detriment of the prosperity of the Colony, and to the exclusion of any sufficient resource under the present circumstances; and whilst a greater necessity than heretofore has arisen for a force constantly available to preserve the peace of the inhabitants during the fishing season, our means of providing it are totally inadequate, and far below those of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, from which your Majesty's Troops are not, as in our case, totally withdrawn.

In the second place, our geographical position is such, that in the winter season, as we have before stated, there is no access to this Island for Her Majesty's Troops stationed elsewhere: whilst as regards Imperial interests, it is of the utmost importance as a naval station for the security of the St. Lawrence.

In the third place, if the frequency of desertion from Her Majesty's forces when stationed in this Island, be urged as a reason for their removal, we believe that it will not be comparatively greater than that which has taken place in your Majesty's other North American Colonies. We conceive that we have been misrepresented in this matter, and we are satisfied that no recent instance can be adduced to shew that any of the inhabitants of this Island have interfered to prevent the apprehension of deserters.

But whilst these things prepare our minds, as material considerations, there is another of far greater moment, and which is ever present to us, and that is, the painful feeling,