

PAPERS RESPECTING CANADA.

No. 1.

COPY of Governor the Earl CATHCART'S SPEECH to the LEGISLATURE of the PROVINCE of CANADA, 20 March 1846.

*Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council, and
Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly,*

The duty of opening this Session of Parliament has necessarily devolved upon me, as Administrator of the Government, in consequence of the lamented departure of the late Governor-general. But I am commanded at the same time to make known to you that the Queen has been graciously pleased permanently to designate me as Her Majesty's future Representative in this province.

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In announcing to you the fact of my having thus become the successor of Lord Metcalfe, you will, I feel assured, concur with me in the expression of sincere regret at the painful cause which has removed this distinguished nobleman from a station, the duties of which he discharged with a zeal and ability, that on every occasion won for him the highest approbation of his Sovereign, and the respect and gratitude of the people over whom he presided as Her Representative.

The several addresses to the Queen which were adopted during the last Session of the Legislature have been laid at the foot of the Throne. It will be my pleasing duty to announce to you Her Majesty's gracious replies.

I should, under any circumstances, have directed your early attention to the condition of the Militia Law. But the unsettled state of the negotiations which have been for some time past carried on between the Imperial Government and that of the United States of America, renders it imperative upon me to press more immediately on your consideration the necessity of a reorganization of this arm of the public defence. I feel the most unbounded confidence that the loyalty and patriotism of every class of Her Majesty's subjects in Canada will be conspicuous, as they have been heretofore, should occasion call for their services to aid in the protection of their country; but a well digested and uniform system is indispensable to give a fitting direction to the most zealous efforts. At the same time I feel warranted in assuring you that, while our gracious Sovereign will ever rely on the free and loyal attachment of Her Canadian people for the defence of this province, and the maintenance of British connexion, Her Majesty will be prepared, as Her predecessors have always been, to provide with promptitude and energy, corresponding with the power and resources of the empire, for the security of Her North American dominions.

The subject of the Civil List, which was brought under your consideration by my predecessor, will doubtless engage your attention, when I trust to your wisdom to make such a provision as will enable Her Majesty to give effect to your wishes, by recommending to the Imperial Parliament the requisite changes in the Act of Re-union.

Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly,

The Financial Accounts of the Province for the past year will be immediately laid before you. The Estimates for the service of the current year will be likewise submitted for your early consideration.