

If in the performance of those duties, I should at any time fall into error, I pray that the fault may be imputed to me, and not to the Assembly whose servant I am, and who, through me, the better to enable them to discharge their duty to their Queen and Country, humbly claim all their undoubted rights and privileges, especially that they may have freedom of Speech in their debates, access to your Excellency's person at all seasonable times, and that their proceedings may receive from Your Excellency the most favorable interpretation.

Then the Speaker of this House said,—

MR. SPEAKER,

I am commanded by His Excellency the Governor General to declare to you that he freely confides in the duty and attachment of the Assembly to Her Majesty's Person and Government, and not doubting that their proceedings will be conducted with wisdom, temper and prudence, he grants, and upon all occasions will recognize and allow their constitutional privileges.

I am commanded also to assure you, that the Assembly shall have ready access to His Excellency upon all seasonable occasions, and that their proceedings, as well as your words and actions, will constantly receive from him the most favorable construction.

Then His Excellency the Governor General was pleased to open the Session by a Gracious Speech to both Houses.

*Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council,
Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly:*

I am happy to meet you as the Representatives of the Canadian people in this the first Session of a new Parliament.

When I closed the last Session in the month of June, we supposed that England was at peace with all the world, but at that very time a fearful mutiny was raging in the heart of our Eastern Empire; a mutiny which for the moment seemed to peril all that we had won in *India*, whilst by the atrocities committed in its course, it roused the indignation of the whole civilized world.

The people of *Canada*, as they have sympathized with the danger and the sufferings of their fellow subjects, will in like manner rejoice at the vigour which has checked this rebellion, and will appreciate the steadfast courage and perseverance which have distinguished our countrymen in the East. It is a source of pride to the British Colonies that with *Havelock* and *Outram* is associated the name of *Inglis*, and that we have sent from *Canada* some who fell gallantly, fighting at *Delhi* and *Lucknow*. The issue of this struggle is in the hands of Providence: we may however, without presumption, anticipate success to our arms, and the firm establishment of British rule in *Hindustan*.

Towards the close of last year commercial relations both in *Europe* and in *America* have been very much disturbed. In these matters, as you well know, the welfare of every country is more or less affected by the condition of