

"TO HIS EXCELLENCY SIR EDMUND WALKER HEAD, &c."

"We, Her Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Legislative Council of Canada, in Provincial Parliament assembled, beg leave respectfully to represent to Your Excellency that, in our opinion, the time has arrived when the Royal Prerogative should be exercised in determining upon a permanent seat of Government in this Province; that the system of holding alternate Parliaments at Quebec and Toronto is objectionable and detrimental to the Public Service, on account of its manifest and extreme inconvenience, that it involves a large expenditure of the Public Funds, and that by the frequent transportation from place to place of the several departments connected with the Government—the security and safe keeping of the Libraries, Records and Archives of the Country are seriously endangered.

"We therefore pray that Your Excellency will be pleased in the exercise of the Royal Prerogative to fix permanently upon some convenient place for the annual assembling of Parliament, and we beg to assure Your Excellency of our cheerful concurrence in any proposition you may think fit to make for the appropriation of Public Money for the erection of suitable buildings for the accommodation of the Three Branches of the Legislature, at the place which may be so fixed upon by your Excellency."

Having thus anathematized the alternate system as *detrimental to the Public Service! extremely inconvenient! involving a large expenditure!—and seriously endangering the security of the Libraries and the Archives of the Province!!* they do an act which tends to perpetuate these very evils:—having earnestly prayed his Excellency to exercise the Royal Prerogative for the choice of a permanent place and assured him of their cheerful concurrence in *any* proposition for the appropriation of the necessary funds to that end—thus proffering their advice and their *cheerful concurrence!* without ever having been asked or "*consulted*;"—no sooner does his Excellency in harmony with the Lower House accede to their request, than these specimens of profound wisdom resolve to frustrate the views and determination of the Crown and people by withholding the annual supplies, at the risk of suddenly interrupting all the Public Works of the Province, consigning hundreds of families to destitution, and arresting the whole machinery of Government. They first pathetically bewail a public evil and solicit a remedy; they next "eat their own words," and stultify themselves by repudiating the prayer of their own address and aping the acts of popular assemblies in times of great excitement; and for all this extravagance, they gravely assign a reason condemned by their own previous solemn declarations, and of so shallow and unfounded a character as to be worse than a falsehood, and to be an insult to common sense.

The Legislative Council constitute a third co-ordinate Branch in the Parliament of Canada. Its functions, assimilated to those of its counterpart in the British Constitution, are clearly defined; they are called into serious action when the torrent of popular fury threatens to overflow its banks, and to imperil the safety of the vessel of State,—*but only then*.—In ordinary times its course—smooth—passive—torpid and innocuous, must not transcend the limits of its normal sphere. From whatever source it may draw its existence, whether nominated by the Crown or elected by the people, it cannot exert, and must not be permitted to exert, a *greater* amount of control in the Parliament of Canada than is assigned to the House of Peers in the British Constitution,—that great Fabric upon which ours has been modelled, and the wisdom of which has been tested by the experience of ages;—which has so recently proved the sole barrier to European revolution and anarchy, and now stands the sheet-anchor of the liberties of the civilized world. The House of Lords, with its hereditary wealth, character, and talent and its enormous influence in the State, would not dare to invade or abridge the privileges and attributes of the House of Commons. In every contest of the kind it has invariably reelected. The Legislative Council of this Province may be proud to fulfil a similar limited sphere in the destinies of Canada. The