

We have never allowed ourselves to doubt, that if ever the period arrived when it should become a question, whether these valuable Colonies should be tamely suffered to be wrested from the British Crown, or whether Your Majesty's loyal Subjects who inhabit them, should be aided in their struggle to avert that calamity, the question would not be determined upon cold calculations of interest alone, but that other and nobler sentiments would govern the decision.

We rejoice to learn, that Your Majesty's Government and the people of the United Kingdom, have no hesitation as to the path to be pursued; and in the generous exertion now made for maintaining the integrity of the Empire, we behold the assurance of our future safety and peace.

The proof which is thus unequivocally given, of the determination of Your Majesty to defend these Provinces effectually from injury and insult, will for the present, we trust, avert the calamities of war; but we earnestly entreat Your Majesty, that the season of peace may be used for providing a more adequate security against a recurrence of such danger as we have been lately exposed to.

The anxieties to which the events of the last three months have given rise, have made us feel more sensibly than ever, the great debt of gratitude which this Country owes to the illustrious Duke of Wellington, whose patriotism prompted him to add to the defences of Canada by the construction of that noble work, the Rideau Canal, which has secured the interior of this Country to the extent of two hundred miles, by providing a navigable channel removed from the frontier, and connecting us directly with whatever resources the fleets of Great Britain can supply. We earnestly hope that the other defences, which it was at one time intended to construct for the protection of our frontier, may be now proceeded in, under the conviction that the want of such defences is almost certain to invite hostilities which must lead to a national war.

In the present remarkable crisis of the affairs of this Province, we have united in a Report, which accompanies this Address, stating the views entertained by the Legislative Council in regard to the general interests of the Colony. If in some points of great moment, we have felt that our duty to Your Majesty, and to our fellow Subjects, has required us to express opinions at variance with the policy which has been pursued by the Colonial Department, we have done so without regard to considerations of party; and in the confidence that we shall not offend by avowing the anxiety we feel to protect our Constitution from injurious changes.

It cannot be doubted that the circumstances in which Lower Canada is placed will lead to the adoption of some measures, which may very materially affect the future condition of this Colony. But though we cannot contemplate these probable changes without extreme anxiety, we feel, in common with our fellow Subjects in Upper Canada, the most unlimited confidence in Your Majesty's desire to consult our happiness and prosperity, and an entire reliance upon the wisdom of the Imperial Parliament for devising such measures as are best suited to remedy existing evils. No important change, we feel assured, will be suffered to be made without an opportunity being first afforded to the Inhabitants of this Province to make known their opinions and wishes; and when this has been done, we are persuaded that all classes of Your Majesty's Subjects will cheerfully abide by the decision.

We beg to express on this occasion our assurances of entire devotion to Your Majesty's Person and Government.

JOHN B. ROBINSON,

SPEAKER.

Legislative Council,
28th February, 1838.