

The order of the day for the House in Committee on the consideration of the draft Address reported from the Special Committee, in answer to the speech of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor to both Houses, at the opening of the present Session, being read.

The House accordingly resolved itself into the said Committee,

Mr. Macdonald took the Chair of the Committee; and after some time spent therein—

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

And Mr. Macdonald reported, that the Committee had gone through the draft Address reported from the Special Committee, paragraph by paragraph, and had adopted the same without making any amendment thereto, and the said Address being again read at the Clerk's Table, was agreed to by the House, and is as followeth:

*To His Excellency Dominick Daly, Esquire, Lieutenant Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over Her Majesty's Island Prince Edward, and the Territories thereunto belonging, Chancellor, Vice Admiral and Ordinary of the same, &c. &c. &c.*

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY:

We, Her Majesty's faithful subjects, the House of Assembly of Prince Edward Island, respectfully offer our thanks for the speech with which your Excellency was pleased to open the present Session, and while admitting the necessity for assembling at this season of the year, we trust that no serious inconvenience will arise to ourselves or others in doing so.

We are quite sensible of the importance to this Island of the Treaty which has been concluded between Her Majesty's Government and that of the United States, and we shall give our best consideration to whatever measure may be submitted to us by your Excellency in reference to this subject.

Although we have long since been made acquainted with the intention of Her Majesty's Government in regard to the final removal of the small military force stationed in this Colony, we cannot avoid regarding that occurrence with sincere regret. It has been the opinion of former Houses of Assembly, as it is unquestionably the opinion of the present one, that this Colony possesses peculiar claims to the fostering care and protection of the mother country; because, at the time of its first settlement, the government of England thought proper to bestow all the land in the Colony upon some few individuals, thereby lessening the means at the disposal of the local government for supporting a military as well as a civil establishment. The other Colonies have extensive tracts of valuable lands, from which a large revenue is derived, but this Colony is suffering from the disposal of its soil, and yet

Her Majesty's Government have not only provided for a considerable military force in each of those Colonies, but have allowed such force, to a certain extent, to remain stationed there. From the position of this Island—great numbers, often amounting to thousands, of the fishermen of the neighbouring Republic having recourse to our shores during the summer season—a military force would seem to be required for the preservation of tranquillity more so than in any other of Her Majesty's North American provinces. But from the well-known loyalty of the people of this country, we apprehend no interruption to the public tranquillity from the withdrawal of the Troops. Nevertheless, we shall make such provision as may in some measure supply their place, so far as the means at our disposal will warrant us in doing—trusting that when the circumstances which required the removal of the military have ceased to exist, this Island will be placed on an equal footing, as regards this matter, with the other Colonies.

The progress of the war in which our beloved Sovereign is now engaged, and which your Excellency has been pleased to say has in some degree influenced the immediate removal of the troops from this Island, is a source of deep solicitude to Her Majesty's dutiful subjects in Prince Edward Island, and there is no section of Her Majesty's dominions where the motives with which Her Majesty engaged in this contest are more highly appreciated; nor is there any place where success to her arms is more earnestly prayed for.

We are happy to learn that the state of the Revenue at this time indicates the progressive prosperity of the Colony; and we desire to assure your Excellency that we shall most willingly make the necessary provision for the public service.

It affords us gratification, not unmingled with pride, that during your Excellency's excursions through this Island you witnessed evidences of the enterprise, industry and contentment of the inhabitants, as well as of the loyalty and attachment to Her Majesty's person and government by which all classes are distinguished; and we are no less gratified to learn that the kindness manifested towards your Excellency personally has made an impression upon your Excellency highly favorable to the people committed to your charge.

We are glad to learn that there exists throughout the Island a growing appreciation of the advantages of education. It will be our constant aim to strengthen such appreciation by bringing education within the reach of all; and we shall, with pleasure, give the fullest consideration to your Excellency's recommendation with regard to the establishment of a normal school, or to any measure calculated to diffuse sound instruction and extend the blessings of free education to the rising generation.

We most cordially unite with your Excellency in our grateful acknowledgments to Divine Providence, who in His mercy has spared the inhabitants of this Island from the