

Montreal—Messrs. Hugh McLennan, John Kerry, Andrew Robertson, M. P. Ryan, M. P., L. E. Morin, W. W. Ogilvie, Robert Spratt, Thomas White, Jr., and W. J. B. Patterson, Acting Secretary. From Toronto—Mr. Robert Wilkes, M. P. From St. John, N. B.—Mr. R. S. DeVeber, and Hon. J. R. Jones. From Halifax, N. S.—Mr. John L. Wylde.

After being introduced, the President read the Address, as follows:—

*May it Please Your Excellency:*

We, the President and Members of the Dominion Board of Trade, respectfully approach your Excellency, to offer our sincere and dutiful welcome on your assuming the important duties of Governor-General of the Dominion of Canada; and to assure you of our loyal attachment to the throne of Her Majesty our gracious Queen.

As an organization concerned in the commercial interests of the Dominion, we would beg to direct your Excellency's attention to the great natural resources of our country.

Situated as we are geographically, there devolved on the people of Canada the duty of turning to the utmost account whatever natural advantages they possessed, under the penalty of being wholly distanced in the race of American progress and prosperity.

Under this conviction, an extensive canal and railway system has been inaugurated, our rivers have been deepened, ocean steamers have been established, and other means have been taken, and are still being prosecuted, to make the River St. Lawrence the great natural outlet of the Continent for its ever-increasing Western trade.

The surveys which have already been made, show that the route to the Pacific Ocean, through Canada, from the Atlantic, will be the shortest, not only for the transit of that immense Eastern commerce which now seeks for outlets by circuitous channels or through foreign territory, but will also connect the Ocean ports on the St. Lawrence with the North-Western United States by a route shorter in distance than any now existing, to American ports on the Atlantic.

Trusting that these matters, so essential to the commercial progress of Canada, will be found worthy of your Excellency's consideration, and with the assurance of our warm welcome, in the assumption of your important duties, and of our prayer for the health and happiness of yourself and Her Excellency the Countess Dufferin,—

Signed on behalf, &c., &c.,

WM. J. PATTERSON, *Secretary.*

HENRY FRY, *President.*

OTTAWA, 17th January, 1873.

His Excellency graciously replied, as follows:—

*To the Board of Trade of the Dominion of Canada:*

Gentlemen,—I beg to return you my best thanks for the kind expressions with which you are pleased to welcome my arrival in this country, and the assumption of the important duties of my high office, and I recognize with pleasure, that in doing so you