

TO THE FREE AND INDEPENDENT ELECTORS
OF THE
CITY OF TORONTO.

ELECTORS:—

In a short period you will be called upon to exercise your constitutional privilege of selecting members to represent your interest in the Provincial House of Assembly. Have you maturely considered the merits of the several Candidates for your suffrages? If you have, I pray sincerely that your choice may have fallen upon those who will preserve your interests, guard the prerogatives of the Crown, and lead this fine country from the confused and bitter hostility of party, to a perfect and lasting state of happiness and repose. If you have not, and if you have been led to *promise* your support to those who are likely to oppose the wise and just policy of an anxious and parental government, fly from that promise as you would from a pestilence—bear in mind that your primal obligations as electors are due to your country; your own individual interests and pledges on a secondary consideration. Thus if you have been led to promise support to one man, and another comes forward whom your own hearts tell you would be better able to serve your country faithfully, and extensively: if for instance, you have promised your votes to Mr. Monro, before Mr. Dunn was in the field, and your present deliberate conviction is that Mr. Dunn would serve your country better, it is your bounden duty to support Mr. Dunn, and to reject Mr. Monro. It would be invidious in me to draw distinctions between these two, or any other gentlemen. Think, judge, and then act for yourselves. It is false morality, and unsound philosophy to declare the voter bound by a promise, given long anterior to the day of Election. Moving causes may arise within the brief period of a few weeks, such as necessarily to change the views and conviction of the honest Elector. He is not bound to support this or that Candidate, whom he may have promised to support in the course of his canvass. That promise is *conditional*, and not *absolute*. The implied conditions are, that no other and better man comes forward; and also that in the interval between such promise being given, and the day of Election, no honest conviction *forces* itself upon his mind, that his duty to his country requires him to oppose that Candidate to whom he gave such *conditional promise*. We are all liable to err: but it is the strongest mark of high morality, and just principle, to acknowledge our errors when convinced of them, and to act in accordance with such conviction, though such action may be opposed to our own

interests, prejudices, and unsound morality. Electors, great interests are dependent upon our approaching election. By one dash of the pen of the great Statesman who now holds almost unbounded sway over the destinies of this fair Province, your hopes may be blasted and Kingston, Bytown, or Montreal be selected as its Capital. Casuists, and bold party reasoners may tell you my Lord Sydenham dare not remove the seat of government from Toronto.—Electors, believe them not! He dare, and depend upon it he will, if you meet him at the very threshold of your dwellings with opposition, faction, and annoyance, instead of frankly and cordially welcoming and supporting him. Be prepared then at the hustings to support his policy by supporting his officers.—Let the interests of your Queen, your country, and yourselves be well considered, and record your votes for the servants of the Crown, and against its opponents. If unthinkingly you have been induced to *promise* a vote where your conscience tells you it ought not, under existing circumstances, to be bestowed, withdraw your promise, firmly and determinedly. Your duty to your Country, to this City, and to yourselves requires this at your hands. It would be an injustice to them, (say the people of Kingston,) if the seat of government were placed any where but there. Montreal is the most populous, easy of access, wealthy, and best fitted for the seat of government, say the people of that City, and we must have it with us. Bytown is the most central, and presents the most natural advantages, and Bytown ought to be the Capital, say the people of that place; and lastly, Toronto presents her claims, and sets forth the advantages of her fine back country, safe Harbor and public Buildings, and demands favourable consideration of her claims. Thus Electors, you perceive how difficult it must necessarily be under *any* circumstances for the Governor General to come to a conclusion as to the seat of Government for the province of Canada. Will you by wanton opposition to his measures, and his men, cause an unfriendly feeling towards Toronto, and destroy all prospect of its being selected as the seat of Government? With this question, and the above remarks for your serious consideration, I take leave of you for the present, and remain.

Faithfully yours,

A BROTHER ELECTOR.

Toronto, Oct. 2, 1840.