

Excellency in your expression of condolence on the loss which has been sustained in the demise of his late Gracious Majesty, William the Fourth, whose memory will long be held in filial gratitude and respect by the inhabitants of this Province.

Address in answer
to Speech at opening
of Session.

And we also avail ourselves of this opportunity to express our heartfelt pleasure in the Accession of Her Majesty, Queen Victoria, to the Throne of her Ancestors, to whom we cheerfully offer the pledge of our enduring loyalty and unshrinking support.

We feel it unnecessary to say, that we participate with your Excellency in the pain experienced by your Excellency at the altogether unexpected and unnatural rebellion that has recently appeared in this and one other District of the Province. Your Excellency has truly declared, that, looking to the enviable state of happiness and prosperity of the Country, this attempt on the part of a few wicked and misguided men is too remarkable not to demand serious notice and consideration; and we assure Your Excellency, its origin and progress, now well known and understood, will receive from us the most grave and serious attention. In the meantime we feel proud in the new and convincing proof the brave and loyal Militia of this Province have given of the truth of the assurance that has been many times and confidently transmitted to the Sovereign by their Representatives in Provincial Parliament, that the British Crown cannot boast of more faithfully-devoted Subjects than the Inhabitants of Upper Canada.

It is not a matter of surprise to us, that,—although all the disaffected of this Province, (however encouraged or by whatever hopes led on,) having combined to overthrow our Institutions and to sever the union from the Parent State, which we so dearly cherish as our greatest blessing, but which has been denounced as a “baneful domination,” suddenly appeared in arms to effect their purpose,—the loyal Subjects of our Queen, at a moment when they believed themselves in perfect security from so foul and unnatural a treason, and were therefore wholly unprepared to defend themselves from the unexpected assault, should have risen in indignant power, and gallantly and patriotically crushed the daring and unprincipled efforts of their assailants. To the calls of honour—of duty and of patriotism—the great body of the people of Upper Canada have ever shown themselves alive; and by these principles, and these only, have they been actuated in the recent contest, and by them will they be governed in all time to come. Neither can we forbear to notice and to acknowledge, with heartfelt satisfaction and delight, that which justice and truth demand at our hands—that, among those who flew to arms in defence of our Constitution and our Laws, men of all creeds and parties, forgetting local differences and distinctions of Politics, were to be found. And we can only hope that these indisputable facts will be remembered by the British Nation when the enemies of our peace and our honour shall raise their voices against us in the British senate or elsewhere.

That we think it unnecessary at this moment to remark more at large on the origin and progress of the calamity we have been called upon to deplore,—as a more fit opportunity will probably present itself before the close of the present Session. It may, however, be consistent with candour and the dictates of a solemn duty, that this House should intimate now, and upon all occasions, that the root of the evil is not to be found in this Province, but in the unwise and mistaken policy which has for years past been pursued by those who were bound to consider in what way protection could be best given to the loyal, rather than encouragement to the disaffected, and to have acted accordingly.

The contrition evinced by hundreds of deluded and misguided men, who declare themselves to have been deceived into the commission of the crimes of which they now stand charged, is gratifying to the feelings of every humane and benevolent mind;—and we are grateful to Divine Providence that the effusion of human blood, in this unnatural contest, has been so slight. Neither can we pass over, without distinct notice and approbation, the able manner in which the service committed by Your Excellency to Colonel MacNAB, the Speaker of this House, was performed by that Officer in the London District.

We assure Your Excellency that it is with surprise and regret we learn that, after peace and tranquillity had been restored in the Province, by the defeat and dispersion of all those who had taken up arms in rebellion, we should be threatened with a hostile invasion by the citizens of a foreign country with whom the Government is at peace. The pretext for aiding the cause and enlisting in the service of the few fugitives who,—shunning the avenging arm of offended Justice, which was raised to punish them for Murder, Arson, and Robbery,—sought to cloak their real character under the sacred names of patriotism and liberty, is too flimsy to impose on any one, or to place their conduct in any other light than that of an atrocious aggression of the laws, liberty, and property of the people of Upper Canada. But we feel it just to express our conviction that the American people, with a due regard to their national honour, will promptly discountenance these unhallowed proceedings, which, we believe, will turn out to be those of a few unprincipled adventurers; and we look confidently to the Government of the United States for that line of conduct which is consistent with good faith and the solemn obligations of existing treaties with the British nation. Should we unfortunately be deceived in these just and reasonable anticipations, and should this unwarrantable invasion proceed, we beg to assure Your Excellency that the people of this Province will faithfully perform their duty; and, we doubt not, that, in defending their domestic hearths, their wives and families, from hostility and destruction, they will fight under the protection of the God of Battles who will give victory to their arms—nor do we fear but that the protection of the mighty Empire, of which we form a portion, will be extended to our aid, and that her warriors will rush to assist us in this struggle for all that is dear to us as men and as Britons, as well as to vindicate the national honour and to chastise the unprovoked invaders of the soil. We await, however, the replies to the