

loyal subjects in this province, who having, many of them, enjoyed the blessings of the British constitution in their beloved mother-country, desire to enjoy the same rights and privileges in this British dependency. We would therefore humbly implore your Majesty to direct your Majesty's Ministers to frame a constitution based on the report of the Earl of Durham, and embracing especially the principle of responsible government—a measure upon the adoption of which the minds of your Majesty's subjects in this province are unalterably fixed. In granting this our humble prayer, your Majesty will, we are assured, strengthen the attachment of your loyal subjects to your Majesty's Royal Person and Government, draw still closer the connexion of the colony to Great Britain, and, what will weigh above all in the kind and generous mind of your Majesty, confer happiness upon a distracted and dissatisfied people.

No. 37.
The Rt. Hon. C. P.
Thomson to Lord
John Russell.
6th Dec., 1839.

Enclosure.

REPLY.

GENTLEMEN,

I have received your address containing copies of resolutions passed at a meeting held some time ago, to prepare an address to her Majesty. I shall readily comply with your request, that I should consider these resolutions, but I must at the same time express my earnest hope that party differences and party feelings may be laid aside at the present crisis of affairs in this Colony, and that I may receive the co-operation of all Her Majesty's loyal subjects in my endeavours to perfect measures for the future peace and prosperity of the province.

GLENGARRY ADDRESS.

To his Excellency the Right Honourable Charles Poulett Thomson, one of Her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, Governor-General of British North America, &c. &c. &c.

May it please your Excellency:—

We, Her Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, inhabitants of the county of Glengarry, in the eastern district of the province of Upper Canada, respectfully beg leave to congratulate your Excellency on your safe arrival to assume the government of the Canadas.

Your Excellency being experienced in the knowledge of the evils that tend to deteriorate the interests of a rising country, we look forward to the happiest results, that your Excellency's endeavours to restore peace and prosperity to these distracted and divided colonies may be crowned with most complete success.

We also beg that your Excellency will accept our most unfeigned thanks for your proclamation of the 19th ultimo. It is sufficient to satisfy any unprejudiced mind that your Excellency intends to govern these colonies with justice and impartiality, leaving nothing to envy and little to wish for.

We cannot refrain from expressing to your Excellency our desire for the establishment of a local responsibility in the government of our affairs, while we most emphatically disclaim our having the least intention thereby of weakening, to the remotest period, the happy connection existing between these provinces and the parent country: the want of executive responsibility to the representatives of the people has been the cause of impending ruin, and the embarrassed state of the finances of this province cannot fail to retard its prosperity, and end in heavy and vexatious taxation, unless wise means are resorted to in obviating present and future evils.

We feel the utmost pleasure in expressing to your Excellency our approbation of the noble and patriotic exertions of the Earl of Durham as evinced in his Report on the Canadas. Could a union of the Provinces be obtained on the principle of securing equal rights and equal justice to all Her Majesty's subjects, it would allay the hostile feeling at present so inimical to the best interests of this important portion of Her Majesty's dominions. We are much gratified that your Excellency has announced the intention to apply a remedy to proved grievances. Without enumerating on this occasion the many grievances complained of, we cannot omit alluding to the flagrant mismanagement of the school lands. Your Excellency is perhaps not aware, that upwards of 40 years ago, his late Majesty King George the Third of gracious memory, munificently granted a tract of twelve townships of land, for the support of general education, and it is a melancholy fact, that this valuable grant has not been the means of affording any individual in Glengarry, and very few elsewhere, the knowledge of a single alphabet.—Upper Canada in this respect, is truly the "girdled tree," we trust your Excellency is destined to restore its verdure.

We conclude by again wishing your Excellency the most sanguine completion of your views in the final arrangement of the affairs of both Provinces, and we beg to add that we shall always be happy to aid your Excellency by our humble efforts.

761 Signatures.

REPLY.

GENTLEMEN,

I thank you for your congratulations on my arrival in Canada, and for your promises of co-operation and support in the discharge of my duties as Governor-General of British North America.