

Address in answer to
speech at opening of
Session

patches in which this gratifying assurance of the intentions of Her Majesty's Government were communicated to your Excellency.

We cordially concur with Your Excellency in the opinion that Emigration, and the disposal and settlement of the Public Lands, are subjects so intimately connected with the welfare of the Province, that we cannot but take the most lively interest in all measures that may relate to them; and that there exists within the Province no means so certain of producing a healthy flow of Emigration from the Mother Country, and of ultimately establishing the Emigrant as a settler and proprietor within the Colony, as the power of affording sure employment for his labour on his first arrival. The assistance of Parliament for the Public Works which may be undertaken here, will in a great measure provide for this. But we are happy to learn that yet further assistance will be afforded us in this great work, and that, with a view further to aid Emigration, your Excellency is authorized to declare to us that Her Majesty's Government are prepared to assist in facilitating the passage of the Emigrant, from the Port at which he is landed, to the place where his labour may be made available; and that a vote of money for this purpose will be proposed to the Imperial Parliament. We shall be gratified by receiving any communication which your Excellency may have to make to us on this subject; and we shall not fail to give our best consideration to any scheme for the settlement and disposal of the Public Lands, which your Excellency may be pleased to lay before us.

Our earnest and most serious attention shall be given to any measure which your Excellency may submit to us for the more extended application of the principles of local self government, which already prevail to some extent throughout that part of the Province which was formerly *Upper Canada*, for enabling the people to exercise a greater degree of power over their own local affairs, and for the establishment of such a form of local self government for those Districts of the Province which are unprovided with it, as may ensure satisfaction to the people while it preserves inviolate the prerogative of the Crown, and maintains the administration of justice pure from party and popular excitement.

Your Excellency may rest assured that we hold the Education of the people to be a subject of paramount importance, and that we sincerely regret that the want of due provision in this behalf should have been so long felt in the Province—We are aware of the difficulty of establishing an efficient system by which the blessings of instruction may be placed within the reach of all, but we are aware also of the overwhelming importance of the subject, and it shall be the object of our best attention, and our most anxious consideration. We humbly thank your Excellency for the promise of Your co-operation in our labours, and we trust that with that co-operation we shall be able to obtain a measure which, if it should fail so to reconcile conflicting opinions as to meet the approbation of all, will, at least, serve as a step by which an advance to a more perfect system may be made, and the difficulty under which the people of the Province now labour may be greatly diminished, subject to such improvements hereafter as time and experience may point out.

We thank your Excellency for the assurance that the financial accounts of the Province, and the estimates for the public service, shall be submitted to us with the least possible delay; and while we shall give our prompt and deliberate attention to the financial measures which your Excellency may lay before us, for rendering the proposed assistance from Her Majesty's Government advantageous to the Province, we feel grateful to your Excellency for the assurance that whatever may be appropriated for this purpose will be economically employed and rendered effective.

We humbly thank your Excellency for the expression of Your confi-