

System of both Divisions of the United Province, and of the Assessment Laws in *Upper Canada*, as well as on other important subjects; all of which will, I am sure, engage your earnest attention.

I have recently made a tour through the Province, such as the exigency of public business would permit, in order that I might become in some degree acquainted with local circumstances requiring attention.

I have had great gratification in seeing a fine Country, evidently advancing in improvement; and have every where been received with manifestations of Loyalty to our Gracious Sovereign, and with personal kindness to myself.

It has been highly satisfactory to me to witness the great works in progress, which, owing to the Loan raised in England under the guarantee of the Imperial Government, the Province has been enabled to undertake or prosecute. They are calculated, I hope, to extend the Commerce, and develop the Resources of this vast Country, and increase the Public Revenue and general and individual wealth.

In those parts where works of this description are in progress, I found contentment prevailing at the prospect which they present. In other parts there is a cry for improved roads for the conveyance of produce to appropriate markets, a claim which is worthy of consideration; for on such communications the prosperity of the Country must in great measure depend. Nowhere was this anxiety more strongly expressed than in the Eastern Townships of *Lower Canada*, where the community, almost entirely agricultural, in consequence of the heavy duties imposed on their produce in the *United States*, have lost the market to which they had formerly recourse, while the exemption from duty in our Country of the similar produce of our neighbours enables them, by greater facilities of conveyance, to undersell the producers of the Eastern Townships in our own Markets. Similar complaints of the effects of the duties on our produce in the *United States*, and of the facility given to the admission of their produce into our territory, are also made in other parts. Whatever improvement can be afforded to our internal communications is so obviously desirable for the advantage of the community, that any outlay devoted to that object, and consistent with the means at command, must be highly beneficial. It is therefore much to be regretted, that the state of the Finances does not afford any im-

mediate prospect of our being able to meet the wishes of many Districts deeply interested in this respect.

I cannot refrain from bringing to your notice, as a subject worthy of consideration, the state of the Prisons in some portions of the Province. The Penitentiary, at Kingston, is an Institution very creditable to the Country; great cost has been incurred in the erection of prisons in other places, and some of the local authorities are now laudably exerting themselves to provide suitable accommodation for prisoners; but in some places there is great deficiency. The justice due even to criminals requires that they should not be subjected to greater punishment than what is designed by their sentence, and that disease, or death, from foul air and want of exercise, should not be superadded to imprisonment. It is likewise due to untried prisoners, who may be innocent, that they should not be confined in the same cell with convicted criminals. A classification and separation of the latter is also requisite. Decency and morality demand the same with regard to the sexes; and debtors and criminals ought not to be confined together. It is desirable that inquiry should be made, in order to ascertain in what respects the prisons of the Country may be defective in requisite accommodation, and to remedy any material deficiency that may exist.

The establishment of a Lunatic Asylum in *Lower Canada* is much required; those who are visited with the affliction of mental aberration being now confined in the common prison, or in some of the Religious and Charitable Institutions which do honor to that portion of the Province. Measures are in progress for the permanent location of the Asylum now existing under a temporary arrangement in *Upper Canada*, and for the completion of the arrangements of that Institution.

*Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,*

The Accounts for the past, and Estimates for the present year will be laid before you. I am concerned to announce to you that there is a considerable decrease in the Revenue, but I hope that it proceeds from temporary causes, and that it will be followed by a greater increase. The Loan obtained in England, under the guarantee of the Imperial Government, has been raised on advantageous terms.

The Act of the Imperial Legislature prescribing a new Tariff renders necessary a corresponding alteration in our Custom Laws, and this subject will be brought under your consideration. I have no doubt of your readiness to provide