

His Majesty, to the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and to the Commons of *Great Britain*, and to His Excellency the Governor in Chief.

And being returned, Mr. Speaker reported, that the House had attended upon His Excellency, with the said Addresses, and that His Excellency was pleased to make the following Answer :—

Gentlemen,

The Addresses which you have presented to me, are all under such peculiar circumstances of novelty, that they have demanded and received a considerable degree of consideration from me.

The Constitutional usage of Parliament, fully recognized by the wisdom of the House of Commons of the United Kingdom, forbids all steps whatever on the part of the people towards grants of money upon public or private grounds, which are not recommended from the Crown ; and although by the same Parliamentary usage, all grants and aids do originate in the Lower House, yet it is scarcely necessary for me to observe, that they are wholly ineffectual, without the concurrence of the Upper House. I must observe, also, that of Addresses to the House of Lords, or to the House of Commons, separately, by a single Branch of a Colonial Legislature, (as far as my information goes) no former example exists. And I must request you to notice, that the Address which I have now received from you, intended for the House of Commons of the United Kingdom, is made to a part only of that House.

For these reasons, I cannot but consider those Addresses to be unprecedented ; to be imperfect in form ; to be founded upon a resolution, which, until it has received the concurrence of the Legislative Council, must be wholly ineffectual, (except as a spontaneous offer on the part of the Commons of Canada) that they are consequently premature ; and I regret that I cannot, therefore, under the impression which I feel of my official duty, take upon myself to transmit them to His Majesty's Ministers. I may add, that His Majesty's Ministers are not the regular organs of communication with the Houses of Parliament, unless by His Majesty's
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