

Excellency has commenced the arduous duties of your exalted office.

Bearing in mind the distinction pointed out by your Excellency with regard to the application of the remedies in question, we are firmly convinced of your Excellency's just and liberal intentions in the administration of the executive power. In those cases where your Excellency may be called upon to act jointly with the Provincial Legislature, or with this House in particular, we shall always be disposed to co-operate in every measure which may tend to the welfare of this Province. With regard to the Bills which may be required to be passed or sanctioned by the Authorities of England, we have already on more than one occasion made known our desires and wishes to His Majesty's Government.—We are firmly persuaded that the result of the attention which has lately been given to the desires and repeated claims of this House and of the people, will be an entire conviction of their justice, and that they will be granted to their fullest extent.

We ought not to fail here to declare most respectfully to your Excellency, that the great body of the people of this Province, without distinction, consider the extension of the Elective principle, and its application to the Constitution of the Legislative Council in particular,—the repeal of the acts passed in Great Britain on matters concerning the internal Government of the Province, and fully within the jurisdiction of the Provincial Parliament, as well as of the privileges conferred by such Acts;—and the full and unrestrained enjoyment on the part of the provincial Legislature, and of this House, of their Legislative and constitutional rights:—as being essential to the prosperity, welfare and happiness of His Majesty's faithful Canadian Subjects, as being necessary to ensure their confidence in his Government, and their future welfare and contentment under it, and to remove the causes which have been obstacles thereto.—And we also most respectfully pray your Excellency, that in those future communications to which you have alluded between your Excellency and His most Gracious Majesty or his Government on the subject of the great interests of this Province, your Excellency will be pleased not to lose sight of this firm conviction on the part of the people, which we feel in common with them.

The desire manifested by your Excellency to obtain the good will of the Canadians of all ranks and classes, and the confidence and respect of the Representatives of the people, is our warranty of your Excellency's intention to do all in your power for the welfare of the country. We thank your Excellency for your declaration that as the head of the Provincial Legislature, you will co-operate with us in the redress of every evil which it may be necessary to correct.

His Majesty's Government must have been long convinced that the circumstances mentioned by your Excellency as being of a nature for some time practically to exclude the majority of the Inhabitants of this Province from a due participation in the powers and advantages of office, rested on an incorrect appreciation of their sentiments. The people have defended the country in time of War.—They refused to accede to the appeal made to them by the former British Colonies on this Continent at the period which preceded the independence of these Colonies; they preserved their confidence in His Majesty's Government in times of difficulty and administration which trampled on their dearest rights, they have, by their Representatives, laboured to ensure to all classes of their fellow subjects without distinction a participation in all the political and natural advantages of the country; and firmly to establish in this Province the Consti-

tutional and Parliamentary law of Great Britain, and such part of its institutions as appeared to the people to be salutary and protecting, and consonant to their wants. It is therefore with satisfaction that we have heard your Excellency disclaim on the part of His Majesty and of the British people, the motives to which the practice heretofore followed has been necessarily attributed. We welcome with a like feeling your Excellency's declaration that your instructions enjoin upon you the utmost impartiality and an entire disregard of unjust distinctions.

We thank your Excellency for the frank and open avowal of the salutary principle, that, in every country to be acceptable to the great body of the people is one of the most essential elements of fitness for public station. We shall rejoice to hear that arrangements have been adopted to lay before the competent authorities a more particular account than heretofore of the exercise of the Royal Authority in the appointments to Public Office in this Province. We perfectly appreciate the motives by which His Majesty is actuated. Yet we cannot but feel some anxiety lest the too frequent appeal to His Majesty should in certain cases have an effect contrary to his gracious intentions.

It will be of the greatest advantage that the cumulation of incompatible offices in the same persons should be completely remedied. Your Excellency cannot fail to remember that the particular cases to which you have been pleased to declare that your attention has been already given, were, among others, provided against by a bill passed by the two Houses of the Provincial Parliament, and subsequently taken into consideration by his Majesty's Government. This circumstance, and the complaints which have uniformly been made on this subject, would have led us to hope that your Excellency forthwith would carry into effect your determination on the subject of the salutary separation of the principal component parts of the Government. We would be happy to see established that responsibility on the part of the Executive power in this Province to the Legislature thereof, and to the House in particular, which is happily established in the United Kingdom, and imparts strength and security to its Institutions. We moreover confidently hope that the arrangements your Excellency has been pleased to declare to us, that your views are not confined to these cases, that no union of incompatible or incongruous offices will be willingly acquiesced in by your Excellency.

The intention announced by your Excellency to communicate to this House by the Executive, of all dispatches, accounts, papers and information, of which in the course of our deliberations we may have need, are of a nature to call for our particular acknowledgements; we duly appreciate the fears of H. M. government that we may have been exposed to some inconvenience arising from this source. We expect the greatest advantage from the unrestrained assistance which your Excellency has been pleased to promise us with regard particularly to every thing connected with the revenue and finances: and we hope with your Excellency's aid, the enquiries which this House will continue and institute will have a happy effect on the legislation and on the sure welfare of the country. We venture to hope that those enquiries, in conjunction with those which this House has already made, will furnish extensive information on the statistics of the Province, and may aid your Excellency in collecting the information and forming the opinions which your Excellency has announced your intention of transmitting to His Majesty's Government.

By abandoning the too frequent practice of reserving bills for the signification of his Majes-

ty's pleasure, and that of delaying the communication of the Royal pleasure, as well with regard to such Bills as to the Addresses of this House, the Executive authorities will concur in consolidating in the Province itself an effective and regular Government, adapted to provide in the best manner for the wants of its inhabitants. This anchorage of the practice on this subject may also be especially favourable to the establishment of Colleges and Schools for the advancement of Christian knowledge and of sound learning, unattended by those delays which your Excellency believes, that under a contrary system, the greatest zeal or activity in his Majesty's service would be insufficient to obviate. The deep and personal interest which His Majesty designs to take in the affairs of this Province, has happily suggested to him a measure which we cannot but applaud.

His Majesty's displeasure announced beforehand by Your Excellency, at any conduct on the part of the Government liable to the imputation of giving to the English an undue preference over the French language; of calling upon the judges for extra-judicial opinions on questions which may subsequently come before them for decision, or of interfering in the elections of the representatives of the people; will be one of the elements of order and security, and we are persuaded that your Excellency can have no motive for not giving the fullest effect to His Majesty's injunctions on this head.

With respect to the idea of any undue partiality to the English language, over that which makes part of the laws and institutions guaranteed in the most solemn manner to His Majesty's Canadian subjects; we learn with pleasure that His Majesty disapproves and desires to prevent the adoption of any practice which would deprive either class of His subjects of the use of the language with which early habits and education have rendered them most familiar. We flatter ourselves that the due consideration which Your Excellency will doubtless bestow with regard to the fitness of the persons who may compose the tribunals and fill the several public offices, will suffice for the future to ensure respect for the incontestible rights of all classes of the inhabitants of the country.

We shall give our earnest attention to the subject of fees demanded by divers public functionaries, with a view to revise and regulate the same by the supreme authority of the law. His Majesty may be assured that we shall be guided on this behalf by the nature of the services to be remunerated, the state and circumstances of the Province, and the various considerations due to the interests of all portions of the public weal, and to the advancement of the moral condition and of the industry of the people.

We shall accept with pleasure your Excellency's co-operation with this House, in an enquiry into the practice and proceedings of the superior tribunals, with a view to ensure their conformity to the law, and to render them more prompt and methodical as well, as less expensive. We hope that the same good understanding will continue to exist between your Excellency and this House, if any bills on this subject should be brought before the Provincial Parliament.

On the subject of the Clergy Reserves we regret that we have to state to your Excellency that notwithstanding the benevolent intentions of His Majesty's Government, of which your Excellency is pleased to assure us, our apprehensions have been justified by the disposal of a considerable portion of the waste lands in the manner which we had foreseen. As we have already expressed our opinion to His Majesty's Government on this head, we shall confine ourselves to assuring