

# JOURNALS

OF THE

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THURSDAY,  
18th January,  
1849.

**T**HURSDAY, the eighteenth day of January, in the twelfth year of the Reign of Our Sovereign Lady, *Victoria*, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, Queen, Defender of the Faith, being the second Session of the third Provincial Parliament of *Canada*, as continued by several prorogations to this day.

Members present.

The Members in attendance in the Building prepared for the accommodation of the Provincial Legislature in the City of *Montreal*, were—

The Honorable *Réne E. Caron*, Speaker :

And certain other Honorable Members of this House.

PRAYERS.

His Excellency comes to the House, and commands the attendance of the Assembly.

His Excellency the Right Honorable *James*, Earl of *Elgin* and *Kincardine*, Knight of the Most Ancient and Most Noble Order of the Thistle, Governor General of British *North America*, and Captain General and Governor in Chief in and over the Provinces of *Canada*, *Nova Scotia*, *New Brunswick*, and the Island of *Prince Edward*, and Vice Admiral of the same, being seated in the Chair on the Throne, the Speaker commanded the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod to let the Assembly know, "it is His Excellency's pleasure they attend him immediately in this House"—

Who being come,

His Excellency opens the Session by a gracious Speech to both Houses.

His Excellency the Governor General was pleased to open the Session by a gracious Speech to both Houses :—

*Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council,  
Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly,*

I have much satisfaction in informing you <sup>The Speech.</sup> that uninterrupted tranquillity has prevailed in the Province during the recess.

The proofs which the people of *Canada* have furnished, during this period of general excitement and disquietude, of their love of order, and of the attachment they bear to their institutions, will tend, I trust, to establish the credit of the Province on a firmer basis, and to promote its prosperity.

I am authorized to state for your information, that it is Her Majesty's purpose to exercise the prerogative of Mercy in favor of all persons who are still liable to penal consequences for political offences, arising out of the unfortunate occurrences of 1837 and 1838 ; and I have the Queen's commands to invite you to concur with me in passing an Act to give full effect to Her Majesty's most gracious intentions.

It affords me much pleasure to state, that in compliance with the desire of the local Legislature, expressed in a joint Address of the two Houses of the Provincial Parliament, the Imperial Parliament has passed an Act repealing the Clause in the Union Act, which imposed restrictions on the use of the French language.

I have been in communication, during the recess, with Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, and with the Lieutenant Governors of *Nova Scotia* and *New Brunswick*, on the subject of the Provincial Post Office, and I am enabled to inform you that