

were found impracticable, the other would be to render the Legislative Council elective.

12. *Resolved*, That judging from experience, this House likewise believes that there would be no security in the first mentioned mode, the course of events having but too amply proved what was then foreseen; and that this House approves all the inferences drawn by the said John Neilson, from experience and facts; but that with regard to his suggestion that a class of Electors of a higher qualification should be established, or a qualification in property fixed for those persons who might sit in the Council, this House have in their Address to His Most Gracious Majesty dated the 20th March, 1833, declared in what manner this principle could in their opinion be rendered tolerable in Canada, by restraining it within certain bounds, which should in no case be passed.

13. *Resolved*, That even in defining bounds of this nature, and requiring the possession of real property, as a condition of eligibility to a Legislative Council chosen by the People, which most wisely and happily has not been made a condition of eligibility to the House of Assembly, this House seems rather to have sought to avoid shocking received opinions in Europe, where custom and the Law have given so many artificial privileges and advantages to birth, and rank and fortune, than to consult the opinions generally received in America, where the influence of birth is nothing, and where, notwithstanding the importance which fortune must always naturally confer, the artificial introduction of great political privileges in favor of the possessors of large property, could not long resist the preference given at free Elections, to virtue, talents and information which fortune does not exclude but can never purchase, and which may be the portion of honest, contented, and devoted men, whom the people ought to have the power of calling and consecrating to the public service, in preference to richer men of whom they may think less highly.