
HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY, *LOWER - CANADA.*

Quebec, Tuesday, 20th February, 1798.

THE House being met,
A message by Mr. *William Boutillier* Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod.

Mr. Speaker,

It is His Excellency the Governor General's pleasure, that this Honorable House do immediately attend him in the Legislative Council chamber.

The House went up accordingly, and being returned,

Mr. Speaker reported, that the House had attended His Excellency the Governor General, in the Legislative Council Chamber, where His Excellency had been pleased to open the present session by a most gracious Speech to both Houses; and that to prevent mistakes, he had obtained, for the information of the House, a copy of His Excellency's Speech, which he read as follows:—

Gentlemen of the Legislative Council

And Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,

From the gracious and repeated declarations made in the course of last year by His Majesty of his earnest desire to restore to his subjects the blessings of peace; and from the actual meeting of Ministers on the part of *Great Britain and France*, I had persuaded myself that at the opening of this Session I should have the satisfaction of informing you that an event so truly desirable was accomplished; but it has been announced from the highest authority, that the King's earnest endeavours to that end have unhappily been rendered ineffectual.—Upon the result of this negotiation