

*Downing Street, 30th January, 1860.*

SIR,

As the two Houses of the Canadian Legislature will soon re-assemble for the despatch of business, it becomes my duty to inform you that the joint Address, to which they agreed at the close of their last Session, was duly presented to the Queen, and was most graciously received by Her Majesty.

In that Address, the Legislative Council and Commons of Canada earnestly pray the Queen to receive in person the tribute of their unwavering attachment to her rule, and to honour with her presence her subjects in British North America, upon the occasion of the opening of the great Victoria Bridge, accompanied by the Prince Consort and such members of the Royal Family as it may please Her Majesty to attend her on the occasion.

Her Majesty values deeply the attachment to her person, and the loyalty to her Crown which have induced this Address; and I am commanded to assure the Legislature, through you, how lively an interest is felt by the Queen in the growing prosperity of Canada, in the welfare and contentment of her subjects in that important Province of her Empire, and in the completion of the gigantic work which is a fitting type of the successful industry of the people.

It is therefore with sincere regret that Her Majesty is compelled to decline compliance with this loyal invitation. Her Majesty feels that her duties at the seat of the Empire prevent so long an absence, and at so great a distance, as a visit to Canada would necessarily require.

Impressed, however, with an earnest desire to testify to the utmost of her power her warm appreciation of the affectionate loyalty of her Canadian subjects, the Queen commands me to express her hope that when the time for the opening of the Bridge is fixed, it may be probable for His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales to attend the ceremony in Her Majesty's name, and to witness those gratifying scenes in which the Queen herself is unable to participate.

The Queen trusts that nothing may interfere with the arrangements, for it is Her Majesty's sincere desire that the young Prince, on whom the Crown of the Empire will devolve, may have the