

When it happens that members are elected at the same time both for the legislative council and for the assembly, they shall make choice of either one or the other of the houses, within a prescribed time.

We cannot close our present humble address to your Majesty, without expressing how much we should have desired to have received the particular statement of the views of your Majesty's government on this important subject, as announced by the right honorable lord viscount Goderich, your Majesty's principal secretary of state for the colonies, in his despatch of the 7th July, 1831, addressed to his excellency the governor in chief of this province, and that the same has not yet been communicated to us, so as to aid us in our endeavours to remedy an acknowledged and instant evil. Wherefore we, the faithful subjects of your Majesty, do most humbly pray that your Majesty will be pleased to take these our representations into your gracious and favourable consideration, and grant such remedy therein as to your Majesty in your wisdom may seem proper.

And as well from inclination, as from a sense of duty, we shall not fail ever to pray for your Majesty's sacred person.

## LXXXI

ADDRESS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF LOWER CANADA, 1833<sup>1</sup>

[Trans. : Christie, *op. cit.*]

To the King's Most Excellent Majesty.

Most gracious Sovereign,—We your Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the legislative council of Lower Canada, in provincial parliament assembled, having had under our serious consideration, the dangerous and unconstitutional proceedings adopted by the assembly, are impelled by a sense of duty to your Majesty, and your Majesty's faithful Canadian people, humbly to approach your Majesty's throne, with a representation of the alarming posture of the affairs of this province, and our earnest supplication for immediate and effectual relief.

From the invariable state of peace and prosperity to which we had attained under the constitution, bestowed upon us by your Majesty's royal father and the Imperial parliament, we are approaching to a state of anarchy and confusion—unceasing attempts are made to destroy the confidence which has hitherto subsisted between the subjects of your Majesty of different origin and language—the interests of agriculture and commerce and the wants of the people are neglected for the advancement of the cabals of party—your Majesty's representative is falsely charged with partiality and injustice in the exercise of the powers confided to him—your Majesty's officers, both civil and military, are deliberately libelled, as a combined faction, actuated by interest alone, to struggle for the support of a corrupt government, adverse to the rights and wishes of the people—and this unmerited abuse has, for years past, been as frequent within the walls of the assembly as without—nor can it be doubted that this system has been adopted and urged, with the wicked intention to degrade the local authorities in the eyes of the people, and thereby ultimately to render them powerless and inefficient for the support of your Majesty's government in this province.

Everything indicates a continuance, if not an increase, of the evils which we have briefly enumerated—for while your Majesty's officers, and particularly the judges of your Majesty's courts of law, are accused and defamed, a competent tribunal within the colony, to which they might appeal for trial and vindication, is refused—whereby a timid, instead of a fearless and independent exercise of their functions is to be apprehended; and with a view to the completion of its designs, the assembly has ventured on the daring step of addressing your Majesty to render the legislative council elective.

The crisis at which we have arrived is pregnant with consequences of the deepest interest to the happiness and welfare of your Majesty's subjects in this province, and at such a moment, it would be criminal in the legislative council, to withhold from your Majesty, the frank and candid avowal of its sentiments.

The efforts of the assembly have been obviously directed, for several years past, to the attainment of power and influence, at the expense of the crown, and

<sup>1</sup> This address is the legislative council's answer to the previous document.