

An Address
in answer to
His Excel-
lency's Speech
Reported.

*County of Renfrew, Knight Commander
of the Most Honorable Military Order
of the Bath, Administrator of the Govern-
ment of the Province of Canada, and
Commander of Her Majesty's Forces in
British North America, &c. &c. &c.*

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY :

We, Her Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Legislative Council of *Canada*, in Provincial Parliament assembled, humbly thank Your Excellency for Your Excellency's gracious Speech from the Throne, at the opening of the present Session, and we desire to express to Your Excellency our congratulations upon Her Majesty's having been graciously pleased to appoint Your Excellency as Her future Representative in this Province.

We cordially concur with Your Excellency in the expression of sincere regret at the painful cause of the removal of Lord *Metcalf* from the Government of this Colony, the duties of which he discharged with a zeal and ability that won for him the highest approbation of His Sovereign, and the respect and gratitude of the people over whom he presided as Her Representative.

We will thankfully receive from Your Excellency the Replies which it has graciously pleased Her Majesty to make to the several Addresses to the Queen, which were adopted during the last Session of the Legislature.

We duly appreciate Your Excellency's assurance, that under any circumstances Your Excellency would have directed our early attention to the condition of the Militia Law, and we agree with Your Excellency that the unsettled state of the Negotiations which have been for some time past carried on between the Imperial Government, and that of the United States of America, renders it imperative upon Your Excellency to press more immediately on our consideration the necessity of a re-organization of this arm of the public defence.

We concur with Your Excellency in feeling that the loyalty and patriotism of every class of Her Majesty's subjects in *Canada* will be conspicuous, as they have been heretofore, should occasion call for their services, to aid in the protection of their Country; but, we nevertheless agree with Your Excellency, that a well digested and uniform system is indispensable to give a fitting direction to the most zealous efforts.

We thank Your Excellency for assuring us, that while Our Gracious Sovereign will ever rely on the free and loyal attachment of Her *Canadian* People for the defence of this Province, and the maintenance of British Connexion, Her Majesty will be prepared to provide with promptitude and energy, corresponding with the power and resources of the Empire, for the security of Her *North American* Dominions.

We will not fail to devote our earnest attention to the subject of the Civil List, which was brought under our consideration by Your Excellency's Predecessor, with a view to make such a provision as will enable Her Majesty to give effect to this measure, by recommending to the Imperial Parliament the requisite changes in the Act of Re-union.

We learned with deep regret that the ancient City of *Quebec* has been subjected to unexampled calamity in the successive fires which laid waste its Buildings, and we derived much satisfaction that measures, rendered indispensable by the exigency, were adopted by Your Excellency's Predecessor, and for the information that the same will be sent down for our approval.

We feel grateful for the sympathy and benevolence of different portions of the British Empire, which were roused into active exercise by the knowledge of the severe affliction with which it had pleased Divine Providence to permit the citizens of *Quebec* to be visited; and we have the strongest reasons for appreciating the noble generosity which has been exhibited, and which has proved how truly the Inhabitants of *Canada* are felt by the People of *Great Britain* to be brethren and fellow subjects of the same Mighty Nation. We will duly consider what further measures it may be proper to adopt for the restoration of what has been thus destroyed.

We thank Your Excellency for the information, that the last intelligence from the Mother Country indicates a most important change in the Commercial Policy of the Empire, and that Your Excellency had previously taken occasion to press upon Her Majesty's Government a due consideration of the effect that any contemplated alteration might have on the interests of *Canada*; and we concur with Your Excellency that until we have a fuller exposition of the projected scheme, which a few days will probably bring to us, it would

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