

Tuesday, 31st December, 1839.

Mr. Cartwright gives notice that he will, on tomorrow, move the following address :

## TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

MOST GRACIOUS SOVEREIGN,

We, Your Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects the Commons of Upper Canada, in Provincial Parliament assembled, beg permission to approach Your Majesty with the renewed expression of our unwavering attachment to Your Majesty's Royal Person and Government.

During the present session of Your Provincial Parliament, a subject more important than any other that has ever engaged the attention of the Representatives of the People, has been brought under their consideration, in pursuance of the commands of Your Majesty, by Your Majesty's Governor General of these Provinces, namely: the Legislative Re-union of Upper and Lower Canada. In the Message of His Excellency to the two branches of the Legislature, they are informed that "after the most attentive and anxious consideration of the state of these Provinces, and of the difficulties under which they respectively labor, Your Majesty's advisers came to the conclusion that by their re union alone could these difficulties be removed: that during the last session of the Imperial Legislature they refrained from pressing immediate legislation, but their hesitation proceeded from no doubt as to the principle of the measure, or its necessity; it arose solely from the desire to ascertain more fully the opinions of the Legislature of Upper Canada, and to collect information from which the details might be rendered more satisfactory to the People of both Provinces."

The House of Assembly deeply feel this additional proof of Your Majesty's solicitude for their happiness and prosperity; and it will ever be held by them in grateful remembrance.

In pursuance of the message referred to, the House of Assembly lost no time in taking into consideration the three distinct propositions submitted by Your Majesty's Governor General as the basis on which the Union might be established, namely: *First*—Equal representation of each Province in the United Legislature—*Secondly*—The grant of a sufficient Civil List—and *Thirdly*—That the public debt of this Province be charged on the joint revenue of the United Province.

To each of these propositions the Assembly has declared its assent:—But it becomes the duty of this House to inform Your Majesty—that while a proportion of its Members, apprehending the greatest danger to our civil and political Institutions—and even to our connexion with the Parent State, from the Union of the Provinces on any terms, there is a majority who are not wholly free from apprehensions as to the result—regarding it as a hazardous experiment—and are therefore altogether unwilling that Your Majesty or the Imperial Parliament should be led to suppose that the propositions brought under their notice by the Governor General are the only stipulations for which they are prepared to contend:—On the contrary, those who are disposed to vote for the Union on any terms, and have recorded their votes in favor of it upon certain specified conditions, would never have been induced to do so, did they not feel the most perfect confidence that Your Majesty, regarding the just and reasonable claims of this Province to have their Institutions and their connexion with the Imperial Crown of Great Britain and Ireland secured, would assent to other, and as they conceived, equally important provisions. In voting for equal representation to the almost universally disaffected inhabitants of Lower Canada of foreign origin, this House does not disguise from itself the danger of finding the great body of the loyal people of this Province in a minority in the United Assembly, when it shall meet for deliberation on public affairs.—On the contrary, they sincerely lament to be compelled, by a regard for sincerity and truth, to say, that their apprehensions are, that such will be the case: To guard against the consequences of such a contingency, this House can discern no other effectual Measure than by rendering as speedily as possible both Provinces "British" in fact as well as in name. For the accomplishment of this great and all-important object, a well organized system of emigration from the British Isles should, without loss of time, be established and vigorously carried into effect. The extensive domain in Upper and Lower Canada placed, in right of Your Majesty's Sovereignty at Your Majesty's disposal, should be at once, and without any other restrictions than such as will conduce to their immediate and successful settlement, appropriated for the residence of such of our loyal and enterprising fellow subjects as may be disposed to establish themselves among us. Obtaining revenue from these lands for any other purpose than to promote their settlement, we humbly represent to Your Majesty, would be a most unwise and unprofitable policy.

We most respectfully entreat Your Majesty that the use of the English language in all judicial and legislative records be forthwith introduced, and that the use of the English language only be allowed in the Provincial Legislature:—And as a matter of justice to Your Majesty's subjects in Upper Canada, we earnestly and confidently appeal to



Your Majesty to admit their right to have the Seat of the Provincial Government established within the Province. It surely cannot be denied to the people of this colony, that if favor is to be shewn to either Upper or Lower Canada, that their claim stands pre-eminent—independent of which, the moral and political advantages of the concession are too obvious and undeniable to admit of dispute.

Lastly, it is with the most sincere satisfaction that this House has received from Your Majesty's Representative the assurance that the bill introduced into the House of Commons during the last session of the Imperial Legislature, is not to be "considered as embodying the provisions which may hereafter be adopted by the Imperial Parliament." "And that it is His Excellency's intention to recommend to Her Majesty's Government in the new measure that must be introduced, to adhere as much as possible to existing territorial divisions for electoral purposes, and to maintain the principle of the Constitutional Act of 1791 with regard to the tenure of seats in the Legislative Council."

We venture to assure Your Majesty that the Constitution under which the people of this Province have lived since the first establishment of a Government among them is looked upon as their greatest political blessing,—and that its abrogation, or any interference with the principles it contains, would be regarded as the deepest and heaviest calamity that could befall them. We therefore do no more than perform our duty to our Constituents, and every loyal inhabitant of the Country, in declaring that under no circumstances, and upon no consideration whatever can we consent to any change in the principles of the constitution conferred upon the province by the Imperial Act of 1791.

We beg further respectfully to represent to Your Majesty that the local laws and the municipal institutions of this Province have been settled with much care and after long and anxious consideration by the Provincial Legislature, the people affected by them are satisfied with their operation, and we therefore trust that they may not be changed by any other authority than the Legislature of the Country.

In praying Your Majesty to take into consideration this representation of Your Majesty's faithful subjects, they trust it will be found that they have advanced no unreasonable claim, but that they have been influenced solely by a sincere desire to guard, as far as possible against the perils with which they are sensible the measure of the Union of the Provinces is surrounded, and which they never would have consented to encounter, if Your Majesty and the Imperial Parliament would have held out any other plan of relief for the embarrassments in which the public affairs of the Colonies are involved: and they now trust that Your Majesty, fully acquainted with all our wants and difficulties, will not confine your consideration to the claims, that are referred to in this address, or in any other proceeding of this House but that continuing to us that gracious and generous protection we have hitherto experienced from Your Majesty and the British Nation, Your Majesty will add such further safeguards as in your wisdom may be thought necessary and desirable to protect your faithful subjects in the peaceful enjoyment of their laws and liberties, and to perpetuate their connexion with Your Majesty's Crown and Empire.

5th Session, 13th Parliament.

## NOTICE

(By Mr. Cartwright)  
Of an Address to Her Majesty, on  
the subject of the contemplated  
Union of Upper and Lower  
Canada.

200 Copies.

Printed by Order of the House of Assembly,

31st December, 1839.

Robert & Thompson, Church Street, Toronto.