

Toronto, 18th January, 1859.

To the Speaker of the House of Assembly :—

Sir,—We beg to inform you of the lamented death of *Charles Allan*, Esquire, Representative of the North Riding of *Wellington*, in the House of Assembly, on the 13th instant, and request that your Warrant to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, for the issue of a new Writ for the Election of a Member to fill the vacancy, may be forthwith addressed to that Officer, as provided by Section 12, 20th Vic. cap. 22.

We have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient Servants,

*George Brown*, M.P. [L.S.]  
*Skeffington Connor*, M.P. [L.S.]

The Honorable *Alexander Tilloch Galt*, Member for the Town of *Sherbrooke*; the Honorable *Michael Hamilton Foley*, Member for the North Riding of the County of *Waterloo*; the Honorable *George Sherwood*, Member for the Town of *Brockville*; the Honorable *George Brown*, Member for the City of *Toronto*; the Honorable *Joseph Elie Thibaudeau*, Member for the County of *Portneuf*; the Honorable *Antoine Aimé Dorion*, Member for the City of *Montreal*; *Skeffington Connor*, Esquire, Member for the South Riding of the County of *Oxford*; the Honorable *Oliver Mowat*, Member for the South Riding of the County of *Ontario*; *Asa B. Foster*, Esquire, Member for the County of *Shefford*; the Honorable *Lewis Thomas Drummond*, Member for the County of *Lotbinière*; *Michael Harcourt*, Esquire, Member for the County of *Haldimand*; *Hugh Finlayson*, Esquire, Member for the East Riding of the County of *Brant*; and *George Caron*, Esquire, Member for the County of *Maskinongé*, having previously taken the oath, according to Law, and subscribed before the Commissioners the Roll containing the same, took their seats in the House.

*Ordered*, That the Honorable Mr. Attorney General *Cartier* have leave to bring in a Bill to provide for the administration of the Oaths of Office to persons appointed to be Justices of the Peace in this Province.

He accordingly presented the said Bill to the House, and the same was received and read for the first time, and ordered to be read a second time on Monday, the fourteenth day of February next.

Mr. Speaker reported, That when the House did attend His Excellency the Governor General, this day, in the Legislative Council Chamber, His Excellency was pleased to make a Speech to both Houses of the Provincial Parliament, of which Mr. Speaker said he had, to prevent mistakes, obtained a copy; which he read to the House, as followeth :—

Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council,  
Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly.

It is my duty, on the present occasion, to call your attention to the question of the Seat of Government of *Canada*.

The Legislature of *Canada*, having resolved that a fixed Seat of Government should be selected, solicited our Gracious Queen, by an Address of either House, to exercise her prerogative in making such selection.

An Act, moreover, was passed, adopting beforehand the decision of Her Majesty, and appropriating the necessary funds.

This Act of the *Canadian* Parliament and the decision of the Queen are binding on the Executive Government of the Province, and it will be their duty to carry out the understanding which existed at the time when the reference was made,

by which the Government will be transferred to *Quebec* for a fixed period, until the necessary arrangements shall have been completed.

The Correspondence with Her Majesty's Government will be laid before you, and I cannot doubt that you will recognize a selection made by Her Majesty at your own request, and that you will duly acknowledge Her gracious compliance with the Addresses which you yourselves caused to be presented to Her.

It affords me much satisfaction to state that the Commission for the settlement of the Seigniorial Tenure will shortly close its labours, and that a moderate outlay beyond the appropriation of 1854 will satisfy all reasonable expectations on the part of the *Censitaires*.

The Municipal Law of *Lower Canada* requires revision and consolidation. A measure for this purpose will be submitted for your consideration.

The possibility of uniting, by some tie of a federal character, the British Colonies in *North America*, has formed the subject of correspondence, which will be placed in your hands. I will also cause to be submitted to you Despatches from Her Majesty's Secretary of State, in relation to questions affecting the *Hudson's Bay Company*, and on the subject of the Inter-Colonial Railway.

Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly,

The Accounts for the year just expired shall be laid before you as soon as possible. I regret that the financial and commercial depression which has weighed upon us, in common with our neighbors, has not yet wholly passed away.

But it is gratifying to me to state symptoms of amendment have begun to shew themselves, and I trust that should Providence bless *Canada* this year with her usually abundant harvest, she will recover her former prosperous condition. The exercise of a sound and rigid economy in every department of the public service will, I hope, again enable us to bring our whole expenditure within the limits required by our Revenue.

I have the satisfaction to inform you that an arrangement respecting the debt due to the Imperial Government, and the sinking fund connected with it, of a character highly advantageous to the Province, has been effected in *England*. The papers relating to this matter shall be laid before you.

In asking at your hands the supplies for Her Majesty's Service, I desire to assure you that everything will be done with a view to placing the tariff on a satisfactory footing. The principle of *ad valorem* duties will be proposed for your adoption in all cases in which it can be properly and advantageously applied.

Honorable Gentlemen, and Gentlemen,

The important work of the revision of the Statutes is, I am happy to say, nearly completed, and Parliament will soon be required to pass such a measure of consolidation as you may see fit to sanction.

I believe that I have summoned you to meet on the present occasion at the time most convenient to yourselves. So much beneficial legislation on important subjects has been dealt with in the last few Sessions that I shall hope to congratulate you on your release at a time somewhat earlier than usual.

With this hope I now leave you to your Parliamentary labours.

On motion of the Honorable Mr. Attorney General *Cartier*, seconded by the Honorable Mr. Attorney General *Macdonald*,

*Ordered*, That the Speech of His Excellency the Governor General to both Houses of the Provincial Legislature, be taken into consideration on Monday next.

*Ordered*, That the Votes and Proceedings of this House be printed, being first perused by Mr. Speaker; and that he do appoint the printing thereof; and that no person but such as he shall appoint, do presume to print the same.