

FREDERICTON, FEB. 20, 1827.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY, FEB. 13, 1827.

To His Excellency Major-General Sir HOWARD DOUGLAS,  
Baronet, Lieutenant-Governor and Commander-in-Chief  
of the Province of New-Brunswick. &c. &c. &c.

THE HUMBLE ADDRESS OF THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

May it please your Excellency,

**T**HE Speech which your Excellency was pleased to make, at the opening of this, the last Session of the present Legislature, demands the cordial thanks of the House of Assembly, and will have the effect of powerfully exciting their best exertions in advancing the Public Interests.

The House of Assembly, in common with the Loyal People of New-Brunswick, with the most painful feelings of commiseration, heard of the sufferings which fell so heavily upon the Commercial and Manufacturing Districts of our Parent State; Sufferings which have been borne with the most persevering fortitude, resulting from unshaken Loyalty and affection to our most Gracious Sovereign and the unrivalled Constitution by which they are Governed; It is however a source of consolation to us, that those sufferings have been greatly alleviated by the Royal munificence, and the characteristic liberality of our fellow subjects at Home, to whom this Province in her recent calamities was also so deeply indebted.

The intimate Connection between this Province and the Parent State, caused the late commercial embarrassments to be severely felt here; but it must at the same time be admitted, that a great measure of our distress has been produced by the same causes which so greatly contributed to the sufferings at Home, namely, excessive speculations in Trade; Speculations far beyond what the Commercial capital of the Province could, under ordinary circumstances, have warranted; the pernicious consequences of which, will no doubt have a salutary effect in correcting our future enterprizes, and in pointing to the propriety of depending more upon the natural resources of the Country.

The House were, from the Commercial embarrassments of the country, prepared to hear of deficiencies in the Revenue compared with several preceding years: They have great satisfaction in learning from your Excellency, that the decrease is not so great as might have been expected from the operation of causes not within the controul of this Province, and that a great part of it, is owing to a remission of duties upon certain articles of import.

The recent measures which have been adopted by His Majesty's Government for regulating the Trade to the West India Colonies, will, if persevered in, soon restore the Commerce of this Province to a state of prosperity equal to that of any former period, and will give an immediate excitement to several branches of Industry, and especially to our Fisheries, to the prosecution of which, we may safely direct the energies of a portion of our population, with certainty of ultimate benefit.

We thank your Excellency for directing the Treasurer's Accounts to be laid before us, and we have great pleasure in the assurance, that the state of the Treasury will enable us to provide for the Ordinary Services of the Province, and other important objects.

The information conveyed to us by your Excellency, upon the several subjects which gave rise to the joint Address of both branches of the Legislature to His Majesty, at the last Session, is of the most gratifying nature; and we beg leave to express to your Excellency, our full and firm reliance, that His Majesty's Government will not compromise the just and undoubted rights of this Province; and we take this opportunity to convey to your Excellency, the high sense which we entertain of the eminent services which your Excellency has rendered to this Colony, in placing this long disputed question of Boundary in its true light, a question which had hitherto not been much investigated, or understood, even in this Province, where the highly important nature of the disputed points, had been generally overlooked:

Comparing the past with the present, we feel deeply, that we have most abundant cause to be thankful to the Giver of All Good, for his merciful interpositions: The labours of the

Agriculturist have been so generally successful, that our Land is filled with plenty; the traces of recent calamities are fast disappearing, and the condition of the Country evidently improving.

We are rejoiced to learn that the application of the Grants placed in the hands of your Excellency, for the construction of various Public works, has to the fullest extent, been productive of the desired and intended effects, and that such of the labouring classes as would have been destitute of the means of support, by the unprecedented depression of our Commerce, have found steady employment upon these works.

The House are fully aware of the necessity of preserving Public Credit, and it is to be regretted that any disadvantageous circumstances should have existed in the payments into the Treasury: This subject shall have our diligent attention.

The spirit of Agricultural improvement which begins to manifest itself throughout the Province, is in a great measure to be attributed to the formation of Agricultural Societies, and the Union of those, with the Emigrant Societies, has been attended with very beneficial effects in many parts of the Province; To your Excellency, as the founder, and Patron of these Societies, this Province will ever feel most deeply indebted; and we doubt not, that by following those measures which your Excellency on first meeting the Legislature of this Province, pointed out with almost Prophetic certainty, as necessary to be followed, this Province will rapidly rise in importance, and comparative rank with the other British Colonies.

That the advancement of Literature is a real blessing to mankind cannot be doubted, the miseries consequent upon the neglect of this most important object, are sufficiently manifested in the present condition of certain parts of Europe: We will continue to give every encouragement to our Institutions of Education, which their high importance demands.

The Militia system, shall also have our careful consideration.

The measures which have been adopted for the improvement of the Public Roads, are highly satisfactory: This great object, as well as all others of Public utility, shall have our continued protection.

In supporting the several measures recommended by your Excellency, when you first met the Legislature of this Province, the House indulged the hope that they were promoting the best interests of the Colony; that hope has now ripened into certainty; and we are sanguine, in believing that those measures, if steadily pursued, will ultimately lead us through all the difficulties which have fallen upon us, by the recent stagnation of Commerce.

Such objects as your Excellency may be pleased to recommend from time to time, by Special message, shall have our early, and distinct attention.

To which His Excellency was pleased to return the following Answer:—

Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly;

I HAVE the greatest degree of satisfaction in receiving this Address.

Your steady support of the measures which I recommended to you when I first met the Legislature and the assurances you now give me that the hopes then expressed have ripened into certainty, afford me infinite pleasure, and in pursuing, with affectionate solicitude for the public welfare, the course I have hitherto taken, I shall continue to rely on the cordial and liberal aid of the House of Assembly.

COUNCIL CHAMBER, 13TH FEBRUARY, 1827.

To His Excellency Major-General Sir HOWARD DOUGLAS,  
Baronet, Lieutenant-Governor and Commander-in-Chief  
of the Province of New-Brunswick, &c. &c. &c.

THE HUMBLE ADDRESS OF HIS MAJESTY'S COUNCIL IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

May it please your Excellency;

**W**E thank your Excellency for your Speech; and We trust that the same zeal and unanimity which have hitherto influenced the proceedings of the General Assembly since your assumption of the Government of the Province, will distinguish the deliberations of the present Session.