

our relations with Great Britain, I cannot doubt the propriety of increasing our means of defence, both by land and sea. This can give Great Britain no cause of offence, nor increase the danger of a rupture. If, on the contrary, we should fold our arms in security, and at last be suddenly involved in hostilities for the maintenance of our just rights, without any adequate preparation, our responsibility to the country would be of the gravest character. Should collision between the two countries be avoided, as I sincerely trust it may be, the additional charge upon the Treasury in making the necessary preparations, will not be lost; while, in the event of such a collision, they would be indispensable for the maintenance of our national rights and national honor.

I have seen no reason to change or modify the recommendation of my annual message in regard to the Oregon question. The notice to abrogate the Treaty of the 6th of August, 1827, is authorized by the Treaty itself, and cannot be regarded as a war-like measure; and I cannot withhold my strong conviction that it should be promptly given. The other recommendations are in conformity with the existing Treaty, and would afford to American citizens in Oregon no more than the same measure of protection which has long since been extended to British subjects in that territory.

The state of our relations with Mexico is still in an unsettled condition. Since the meeting of Congress another revolution has taken place in that country, by which the government has passed into the hands of new rulers. This event has procrastinated, and may possibly defeat the settlement of the differences between the United States and that country. The Minister of the United States to Mexico, at the date of the last advices, had not been received by the existing authorities. Demonstrations of a character hostile to the United States continue to be made in Mexico, which has rendered it proper, in my judgment, to keep nearly two thirds of our army on our south western frontier. In doing this, many of the regular military posts have been reduced to a small force, inadequate to their defence, should an emergency arise.

In view of these "circumstances," it is my "judgment" that "an increase of our naval and military force is at this time required," to place the country in a suitable state of defence. At the same time, it is my settled purpose to pursue such a course of policy as may be best calculated to preserve, both with Great Britain and Mexico, an honorable peace; which nothing will so effectually promote as unanimity in our councils, and a firm maintenance of all our just rights.

JAMES K. POLK.

#### PROVINCE OF CANADA.

[From the Montreal Herald Extra, Friday, March 20, 1846.]

This afternoon, at three o'clock, His Excellency Earl Cathcart, Administrator of the Government, proceeded in state to open the Provincial Parliament, escorted by a detachment of the Queen's Light Dragoons under the command of Captain Jones, and received by a guard of honor from the 52nd Regiment.

The number of tickets issued was limited, yet by two o'clock, when the doors were opened, there were a considerable number waiting for admission, and Ladies were already in the Chamber, the whole of the space within the bar appropriated to strangers being allotted to them for their exclusive accommodation.

At a quarter to three, the Countess of Cathcart, in company with the Ladies Cathcart, the Hon. Mrs. Gore, and other Ladies, were attended by the Honorable the Speaker and other Members of the Council, to the Chairs set apart for them, in the line with those of the Councillors themselves, on the right of the Throne. At this time the whole of the benches and chairs within the bar, not occupied by the Members of the Council, were occupied by the *élite* of the female world of Montreal, and the galleries were filled with such gentlemen as had been fortunate enough to obtain tickets.

At three o'clock precisely, Earl Cathcart entered the room, attended by a brilliant Staff. His Excellency appeared in the uniform of his rank as a General in the Army, and not in that of a Governor General.

The Hon. Speaker ordered the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, by desire of His Excellency, to summon the attendance of the Members of the Legislative Assembly, who entered immediately after mixed up with many *lobby* members, who having received no tickets, and having no right of *entrée*, took this method of smuggling themselves into the Legislative Council Chamber.

His Excellency then read in a distinct tone of voice the following Speech:—

Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council,  
and Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly:

The duty of opening this Session of Parliament has necessarily devolved upon me as Administrator of the Government, in consequence of the lamented departure of the late Governor General. But I am commanded at the same time to make known to you, that the Queen has been graciously pleased permanently to designate me as Her Majesty's future Representative in this Province.

In announcing to you the fact of my having thus become the successor of Lord Metcalfe, you will, I feel assured, concur with me in the expression of sincere regret at the painful cause which has removed this distinguished Nobleman from a station, the duties

of which he discharged with a zeal and ability, that on every occasion won for him the highest approbation of his Sovereign, and the respect and gratitude of the people over whom he presided as Her Representative.

The several Addresses to the Queen which were adopted during the last Session of the Legislature, have been laid at the foot of the Throne. It will be my pleasing duty to announce to you Her Majesty's gracious Replies.

I should under any circumstance have directed your early attention to the condition of the Militia Law. But 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 on me to press more immediately on your consideration the necessity of a reorganization of this arm of the public defence. I feel the most unbounded confidence 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 a well digested and uniform system is indispensable to give a fitting direction to the most zealous efforts. At the same time I feel warranted in assuring you 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, as Her Predecessors have always been, to provide with promptitude and energy, corresponding with the power and resources of the Empire, for the security of Her North American Dominions.

The subject of the Civil List, which was brought under your consideration by my Predecessor, will doubtless engage your attention, when I trust to your wisdom to make such a provision as will enable Her Majesty to give effect to your wishes, by recommending to the Imperial Parliament the requisite changes in the Act of Reunion.

Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly,

The Financial Accounts of the Province for the past year, will be immediately laid before you.—The estimates for the service of the current year, will be likewise submitted for your early consideration.

The necessity of providing for the prosecution and completion of the Public improvements undertaken with the sanction of Parliament, will form a subject for your deliberation.

It affords me pleasure to be able to inform you that the Revenue of the past year has not fallen short of the expectations which were entertained of its amount, and I rely on your willingness to make such provision for the public service, as a due regard to the interests of the people may require.

Honorable Gentlemen, and

Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly,

Since your last meeting, the ancient City of Quebec has been subjected to unexampled calamity in the successive fires which laid waste its buildings. Measures, rendered indispensable by the exigency, were adopted by my Predecessor, which will be sent down for your approval.

The sympathy and benevolence of different portions of the British Empire were roused into active exercise by the knowledge of the severe infliction 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. It will be for your wisdom to consider what further measures it may be proper to adopt, for the restoration of what has been thus destroyed.

The last intelligence from the Mother Country indicates a most important change in the Commercial Policy of the Empire. I 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. But until we have a fuller exposition of the projected scheme, which a few days will probably bring to us, it would be premature to anticipate that the claims of this Province to a just measure of protection had been overlooked.

In these and the various other subjects affecting the prosperity of Canada, which may occupy you, I offer my hearty co-operation; and I earnestly trust that under the direction of an all-wise Providence, we shall be enabled to pursue a course calculated to promote the best interests, and to foster the rising growth of this rapidly advancing Colony.

His Excellency then retired under a salute of nineteen guns from St. Helen's, escorted as before.

[From the Saint John Chronicle.]

The following Address to the Honorable W. B. Kinnear, late Recorder of the City, and his reply thereto, are inserted by the wish of the Sessions. They do credit to all the parties concerned.

To the Honorable William B. Kinnear, Solicitor General of the Province of New Brunswick.

SIR,—We, the undersigned Justices of the Peace in and for the City and County of Saint John, avail ourselves of the present opportunity to congratulate you on your Professional advancement