

I think you will be able to frame such a measure as will materially relieve the people of the Province, and facilitate the transmission of Letters within its limits.

The Act regulating the Common Schools requires renewal and revision. The zeal which you have hitherto shown in the cause of Education, makes me confident that you will devise means for extending its benefits and improving its character.

I regret that I have no definite information which I can afford you with reference to the settlement of the Canadian Boundary, but I know that the subject is under consideration, and that its importance to the welfare of New Brunswick, as well as Canada, is appreciated.

The Act relating to the Corporation of Saint John has been brought into operation. I have every reason to believe that the Police of that City is properly organized, and answers the purpose for which it was intended.

I have taken care that rules and regulations should be framed for carrying out the Act of last Session on the subject of Lands sold by the Crown. I wish you to consider whether that Act can produce its full effect without some modification of the Tax on Emigrants. It is essential, however, that due security should be maintained for the protection of the health of Passengers, and that object is greatly facilitated by recent enactments of the Parliament of Great Britain.

Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House Assembly:

The Accounts of Revenue and Expenditure for the past year will be laid before you without delay. You will see with satisfaction that the moneys paid into the Treasury show a considerable improvement in our Finances, and I trust you will find that all proper economy has been exercised in expending the sums appropriated by you.

In the event of your passing any Act imposing Duties on imports, I seriously recommend for consideration the expediency of promoting Commerce, by insuring greater certainty in our Revenue Laws.

The mere fluctuations of Markets render commercial speculations hazardous without the additional risk attaching to the shipment of goods, whilst the rate of Duty which those goods may have to pay is wholly conjectural.

I am persuaded that such uncertainty is more injurious to the shipper and importer, and consequently to our own Revenue, than a higher Tariff would be on which they could calculate beforehand with tolerable security.

I trust you will not suppose me desirous of suggesting any course which should imply a diminished controul over the Taxation of the Province by the Representatives of its People.

Under all circumstances, in your hands must rest the discretionary power of altering the Duties, and in your hands must remain the appropriation of the moneys so levied.

These Constitutional rights would not be affected by the adoption of a Bill exceeding in its duration the ordinary period, and whilst on the one hand it would be perfectly understood that the Provincial Legislature might alter or repeal any of the Duties at any moment, the Merchant would feel secure that no such change would take place without due deliberation, and without a special reason for such a course.

This is virtually the state of things in England, and this, I am fully persuaded, would be the principle most likely to foster Commerce in our own Province.

Mr. President, and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council;

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

I cannot conclude this Speech without expressing to you distinctly my own convictions on one or two Constitutional matters of the highest importance.

I believe, in the first place, that it is most desirable to define more accurately the responsibility attaching to the initiation of money votes. This can only be done by throwing such responsibility on the Executive Government.

The undisputed right to originate money votes is vested in the House of Assembly; and the Members of the Executive Council, it is now understood, practically retain their seats only so long as they are presumed to enjoy the confidence of the people, expressed in the Legislature.

To the people therefore through their Representatives, as well as to the Crown, they are strictly responsible; and although the burthen of being answerable for the introduction of money votes would be a heavy one, that burthen might be lightened by leaving to local controul such local charges as no central Government can by any amount of vigilance efficiently check. Local controul over local charges, presents moreover advantages of its own with which every man of English race is sufficiently familiar. Economy would be promoted—habits of self reliance and self government would be fostered—and the elements of true political freedom would be developed by the management of the affairs of each separate district.

I believe too, that an Audit based on powers more stringent and more searching than those which now exist, would ensure greater regularity in all our Accounts, and would give confidence to the public at large.

It implies no mistrust of the people or the Legislature of this Province to advocate principles and measures practically a part of the Constitution of England, and of the Constitution of other Colonies, where free and Responsible Government is acknowledged as completely as in New Brunswick.

In themselves these measures would bring to the Representative of Her Majesty, and to Her Majesty's Councillors, nothing but an amount of trouble and responsibility from which they are now exempt.

I name them to you with the full conviction that they contain the best means by which the people may be assured that their expenditure will correspond with their probable income—that the credit of the Province will be properly upheld—and that no abuse of Public Money is likely to take place with impunity.

I will only add that I believe such changes may be combined with an actual and immediate saving to the Provincial Revenue.

I could not properly meet you in this, the last Session of the present Assembly, without imparting frankly my hope, that in the course of your deliberations you may, at any rate, pave the way for measures such as these to which I have adverted.

To those deliberations you will now proceed, and I entertain a conviction that they will be guided by a spirit of loyalty to the Queen, and zeal for the public welfare, worthy of this Province. When we last met, we had to look back upon a year of war and tumult in Europe,—the wrecks of mighty States seemed to float around Great Britain, and to justify our confidence in the strength and soundness of those institutions, by help of which she had, under Providence, ridden out the storm;—that confidence therefore you have every reason to maintain unimpaired, and it will always be my duty to foster and encourage it by all constitutional means.

[From the Saint John Courier.]

With reference to the annexed documents, we are desired to say that Mr. Archibald's letter to Messrs. Brown and M'Grath, with the accompanying Address, was received at the time, but the public duties of one of the gentlemen prevented its being attended to till Thursday last week, when they waited on Dr. Waddell with the Address.

The papers were then handed to us for publication, but not having room for them in our columns of last week, we have much pleasure inserting them now.

Truro, January 16th, 1850.

GENTLEMEN,—I am solicited by the subscribers to the accompanying Address to request you—the one a native, the other some time a resident of the County of Colchester—to present to Dr. Waddell this testimonial of the esteem in which he is held by those among whom he formerly resided. Feeling assured it will afford you pleasure to be the channel by which a well merited compliment is conveyed to our fellow countryman, who has lately taken up his residence in a sister Province,

I have the honor to be, Gentlemen,

Yours respectfully,

A. G. ARCHIBALD.

MESSRS. CHARLES BROWN and JOHN M'GRATH,
Saint John, N. B.

TO JOHN WADDELL, Esquire, Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, London.

DEAR SIR,—Your recent acceptance of an office in New Brunswick rendering it necessary for you to reside in that Province, your numerous friends and acquaintances in the County of Colchester are unwilling to lose the opportunity afforded by your removal to the sphere of your new duties, to give expression to the feelings of respect and esteem which they entertain for you.

To many of us you have been known from your early youth: all of us have enjoyed your acquaintance for some years; and it affords us great pleasure to assure you, that the energy and ability you have displayed in the discharge of the civil and professional duties incident to your position, the undeviating probity and integrity which have characterized your business transactions, and the zeal with which you have devoted yourself to the advocacy and promotion of such institutions as you considered conducive to the best interests of society, have not been observed by us without producing sentiments of more than ordinary respect.

With these principles to guide you in the new position to which you are called, we feel that we may reasonably anticipate for you a fair measure of success.

Accept, dear Sir, for yourself and your family, the assurance that it will at all times afford us gratification to hear of your welfare.

Truro, 16th December, 1849.

Charles Blanchard, William Cutten, J.P.

Sheriff of Colchester. Duncan Black, J.P.

A. L. Archibald, M.P.P. David V. Crowe, J.P.

A. G. Archibald, Daniel Morrison, J.P.

Judge Probate. John I. Baxter,

Thos. I. Brown, J.P. Presbyterian Minister,

Samuel Muir, M.D. Henry Wiswell,

John Dixon, John Goudge,

Curate of St. John's, Truro. J. F. Blanchard,

Thos. C. Leaver, A.B. James K. Blair,

D. B. Lynds, M.D., J.P. Richard Christie,

James Bayne, J. W. Teas,

Presbyterian Minister. Robert Henesy,

George Duncan, A. C. Soley,

Thomas M. Crow, John Kent,

County Treasurer. James Thompson,