

MESSAGE No. 32.

The Officer administering the Government has received an address from the House of Representatives, dated the 16th instant, in answer to his Message of the 5th instant (No. 25) and has bestowed upon the contents of that document the anxious consideration which his sense of their great importance to the Colony demands from him.

He will not permit the character of some of the statements and arguments which that Address conveys to him to disturb the friendly sentiments towards the House of Representatives which he sincerely entertains; and considers it a duty to cultivate by all the means in his power. Controversy between the House and himself on portions of their address which he cannot but feel to be objectionable, could produce no good result, and would probably tend to an increase of the evil which he deplures. He will not therefore allude further to the subject.

In the hope of securing harmonious relations between the Legislative and Executive branches of the Government, and in order to meet, to the utmost of his power, the wishes of the House with regard to the establishment of Ministerial responsibility, the Officer administering the Government at an early period of the session took upon himself the responsibility of making an important change in the composition of the Executive Council, and he hopes ever to recollect with pleasure the expression of the satisfaction of the House at his prompt compliance with their desire.

Avoiding, as worse than useless in the present state of affairs, all reference to the subject of his difference with the late members of the Executive Council, the Officer administering the Government is nevertheless compelled to notice; and indeed to take as his guide, the new position in which he and the House are placed by the new demand now presented to him in the following words:—

“We turn to the future, appealing to your Excellency under a deep and solemn conviction of the responsibility which rest no less upon your Excellency than upon ourselves under the present critical position of the Colony. Dismissing all that has passed, we pray your Excellency to look at the question as now standing on new ground, and surrounded with new circumstances, and therefore justifying new concessions,” the concession required being, in the last words of the address, “the immediate establishment of the Executive Government on the basis of complete Ministerial Responsibility.”

By his Message No. 25, the Officer administering the Government informed the House that he believed himself to be absolutely precluded, by the Royal Instructions, from establishing Ministerial Responsibility in a complete form, and not anything contained in the present address from the House is calculated to lead him to a different conclusion. His sense of duty absolutely forbids him to make the concession now required in terms of the most positive character; and he has only to repeat the settled conviction of his mind that by yielding on the point of duty he should deserve the censure of her Majesty, and incur the disapprobation of the colonists of New Zealand.

It is therefore plain that a difference has taken place between the House of Representatives and the Officer administering the Government which is at this moment irreconcilable. The present address from the House, coupled with his own unaltered sense of duty to her Majesty and the Colony, leaves him without a hope of being able to restore for the present that kind of Ministerial Responsibility which recently gave so much satisfaction to himself and apparently to the House and the public. Neither adverting to the early proceedings of the House with regard to Ministerial Responsibility, to the whole character of the Address now before him, and to the large majority by which it was adopted, can the Officer administering the Government think it possible that the House should carry on business without any Ministerial communication between them and the head of the Government. He is painfully convinced that, as respects legislation for the service of the Colony, the session has come to an end.

Under these new circumstances, as produced by the new demand of the House, the ordinary duty of the Officer administering the Government would be to prorogue the Parliament indefinitely, and to submit the whole subject to Her Majesty and the Imperial Parliament. But as he has before, in his anxiety to do what he thought would be serviceable and agreeable to the people of the Colony, taken steps and incurred responsibilities beyond the ordinary duty of an accidental and temporary administrator of the Government, so now, with the same dispositions towards the Colonists, he clings to the hope that legislation by the General Assembly may not be indefinitely suspended, and trusting that a majority of the House may yet, after reflection, be willing to co-operate with him in passing laws which are greatly needed by the Colony, he intends forthwith to prorogue the Parliament for but a short period, and to lay before them when they re-assemble his views of what the wants and best interests of the Colony demand.

In the meanwhile it will be his endeavour to add to the Executive Council such a number of members, being members of the Legislature, as shall give to all the Provinces an effectual voice and influence in both the Legislative and Executive proceedings of the head of the Government: and he further intends, with the view of accelerating as much as possible the establishment of complete Ministerial Responsibility in New Zealand, to despatch without delay to Her Majesty's Government an earnest request that they may be pleased, either by means of the Royal prerogative, or by the aid of Parliament, to enable the General Assembly to pass an effectual measure for establishing Responsible Government in this Colony according to the forms and usages of the British Constitution.

After the brief recess of the General Assembly, its two Houses will determine whether it may not be expedient for them to concur with the Officer administering the Government, in passing a Bill for the same purpose, (which of course would be reserved for her Majesty's assent,) so that no means may be neglected of acquiring for the Colony in the shortest possible time a political institution to which the House do not attach more importance, and which they are not more desirous of obtaining for this Colony than the Officer administering the Government.

R. H. WYNYARD,

Officer administering the Government.

Government House, Auckland,
17th August, 1854.

MESSAGE, No 33.

The Officer administering the Government transmits to the House of Representatives a copy of the New Zealand *Government Gazette* containing a Proclamation Proroguing the General Assembly until Thursday the 31st instant.

R. H. WYNYARD.

Officer Administering the Government.

Government House, Auckland,
17th August, 1854.

PROCLAMATION.

By His Excellency Lieutenant-Colonel ROBERT HENRY WYNYARD,
a Companion of the most Honourable Order of the Bath,
the Officer administering the Government of the Islands
of New Zealand. &c., &c., &c.

WHEREAS by an Act made and enacted in the Parliament holden in the fifteenth and sixteenth years of the reign of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, intituled "An Act to grant a Representative Constitution to the Colony of New Zealand," it is amongst other things enacted that the General Assembly of New Zealand shall be holden at any place and time within New Zealand which the Governor shall from time to time by Proclamation for that purpose appoint; and that the Governor may, at his pleasure prorogue or dissolve the General Assembly.

Now, I, the Officer administering the Government, pursuant to the authority vested in me in that behalf by the said recited Act, do hereby prorogue the General Assembly of New Zealand until Thursday, the 31st inst. *And I do hereby declare* the said General Assembly to be prorogued accordingly.

And I do further proclaim and appoint that the said General Assembly shall meet for the despatch of business at Auckland, on the said day at twelve o'clock at noon; and the Members of the said Assembly are hereby warned to give their attendance at the same time and place accordingly.

Given under my hand, and issued under the Public Seal of the Islands of New Zealand, at Auckland, this seventeenth day of August, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-four.

R. H. WANYARD,

The Officer administering the Government of the Islands of New Zealand.

By His Excellency's command,

ANDREW SINCLAIR,

Colonial Secretary.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN!

THE
FEDERAL

REVENUE SERVICE
OFFICE OF THE
CHIEF OF BUREAU
WASHINGTON, D. C.
20540

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF BUREAU
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