

to both Houses, of which Mr. Speaker said he had to prevent mistakes obtained a copy, which he read to the House, and is as follows :

His Excellency's Speech. *Mr. President, and Hon. Gentlemen of the Council—*

*Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly—*

Two events of the greatest consequence to us, as loyal subjects, have occurred since our last meeting,—the first, the escape of her Most Gracious Majesty from the furious assault of a wretched maniac,—the second, the auspicious birth of the Princess Royal.

These incidents, though dissimilar in their character, are both calculated to excite deep feelings of joy and gratitude.

I have to acquaint you that of the 10 acts passed in the last session, six have been left to their operation; and that respecting two others, some correspondence has passed which shall be submitted to your inspection. I have not as yet been honored with any commands relative to the remainder.

The despatch which I have received on the subject of a Land Bill is so full and explicit, that in laying it before you I shall feel confident that this matter will at length be settled in a manner suitable to the circumstances of the colony.

I shall cause to be transmitted to you the last report of the Geological Surveyor. His researches have not been productive of any immediate practical benefit, but they are far from unimportant, and I hope before the close of the session to make some further communication in connection with his past operations with a view to their being rendered of permanent utility.

Her Majesty's Government having directed that such buildings in Fort William as may be required for Colonial purposes shall be transferred to the colony, I would propose the appointment of a joint committee of the Council and House of Assembly for the purpose of ascertaining how far this order can be made available for the future accommodation of the Legislature.

*Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly—*

The estimates for the ensuing financial year shall be sent down without delay. —The revenue has been considerably augmented by the fiscal enactments of the last session, and our pecuniary condition is satisfactory; but unless enlarged means of prevention are given to the Customs Department the evil effects of smuggling, already great, will be still farther experienced.

I must revert to the observations which I have formerly made from this place, and in repeated messages to the House, respecting the sick and impotent Poor, the Orphans and idiots. For the current year no provision has been made for these unhappy people, and consequently even the Hospital is closed against them.

As affecting applications are often made to me on this subject, I once more recommend it to your benevolent reflection.

From the peculiar nature of our avocations it should seem especially incumbent on us to make a just and guarded provision for the utterly helpless.

*Mr. President and Hon. Gentlemen of the Council,*

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

The approaching period of a General Election, and the scandalous events which have lately occurred in partial elections, the last of which was rendered altogether abortive by the ferocious conduct of a mob at Carbonear, compel me to suggest for your deliberation, as an object of the first importance, the establishment of such a law as may tend to preserve the public peace and secure the free and undisturbed exercise of the elective franchise.

For this purpose it seems desirable that our system should be assimilated, as nearly as circumstances will permit, to that of the mother country.