

HER MAJESTY'S COUNCIL.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

FOURTH SESSION, SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY;
2nd VICTORIA.

Friday, 17th May, 1839.

This being the day appointed for the meeting of the Colonial Legislature—

At half-past One of the Clock, p. m., the House met—

House meets.

Present,

The Honorable WILLIAM SALL, *Commandant.*

Members present.

“ “ JAMES SIMMS, *Attorney-General.*

“ “ JAMES CROWDY, *Colonial Secretary.*

“ “ JAMES M. SPEARMAN, *Collector of the Customs.*

“ “ WILLIAM THOMAS.

“ “ JOHN B. BLAND.

“ “ JOHN SINCLAIR.

At Two of the Clock, p. m., His Excellency the Governor having arrived at the Council Chamber, and being seated on the Throne, the Honorable the President of the Council commanded the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod to go to the Commons House of Assembly, and inform the Members that it was His Excellency's pleasure that they do forthwith attend at the Bar of this House; and they being come thereto, His Excellency was pleased to open the Session by a Gracious Speech to both Houses.

His Excellency the Governor arrived at the Council Chamber.

The Council summoned to attend him.

The House of Assembly having withdrawn, His Excellency was pleased to retire.

A Copy of His Excellency's Speech having been left with the House, it was read by the Clerk, and is as follows :

Mr. President, and Honorable Gentlemen of the Council ;

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

His Excellency's Speech.

I am glad to meet you again in Session ; and I could have wished to assemble you at an earlier period, but the nature of our climate, our Commercial pursuits, and the want of an Edifice for your special accommodation, have been obstacles to my so doing.

I commend to your consideration a report, which I shall forward, from the Commissioners for the erection of a Colonial House. They have determined upon the plan of a Building which would prove highly useful and ornamental, but their further operations are suspended by difficulties which may probably be obviated by Legislative enactment.

I am commanded to bring under the observation of the Legislature the intention of Her Majesty's Government to establish a Steam communication between the Mother Country and Nova Scotia, for the conveyance of Mails to and from the British North American possessions, with a view to ascertain in what degree Newfoundland can contribute to or be benefited by such an arrangement. Transcripts of the correspondence on this subject shall be sent down.

I shall transmit copies of a Despatch from the Secretary of State, regarding the disposal of Crown Lands, by which you will perceive that it is advisable to postpone deliberation upon