

be free from arrest, with such other rights and privileges as may appertain to them, and that I as their Speaker may have free access to your Excellency's person whenever public business shall require it.

Whereupon,

The Hon. the President of the Legislative Council, by command of His Excellency the Governor, said :

MR. SPEAKER,—I am directed by His Excellency to assure you, that he will extend to you and the House of Assembly, the amplest and fullest privileges which have been granted to your predecessors.

The House being returned, and Mr. Speaker having taken the Chair, Mr. Speaker reported that when in attendance on His Excellency the Governor, His Excellency had been pleased to make a Speech to both branches of the Legislature, of which, Mr. Speaker said, for the sake of accuracy, he had obtained a copy, and which he read to the House as follows :—

Speech of the Governor.

*Mr. President, and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council :*

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

I avail myself of the earliest opportunity of assembling you after the recent General Election.

It would have afforded me infinite satisfaction to have announced to you that British subjects in Newfoundland had been allowed to exercise the undoubted right which they possess, to vote for such persons as they might think were the fittest to represent their interests in the House of Assembly.

I am sorry to say that this has not been the case ; serious riots and disturbances have occurred in several Districts—property to a considerable amount has been destroyed in Harbor Grace, and no polling took place there, the rioters having had their sway, notwithstanding that the authorities, at their own request, had a military force sent in aid of the Civil Power.

In Saint John's, also, on the day of Nomination, outrages of a very serious character occurred, occasioning, as I hear, the use of fire-arms, and several person were, unfortunately, wounded.

In the District of Harbor Main, I lament to say, more distressing events have occurred. In that District there were four Candidates, all of the