

The Honorable Mr. Speaker then reported, that when in attendance on His Excellency the Administrator of the Government in the Council Chamber, His Excellency had been pleased to make a Speech to both Houses, of which Mr. Speaker said he had, for greater accuracy, obtained a copy, which he read to the House, and is as followeth :—

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

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

“ It affords me sincere pleasure to meet you for the first time in Parliament.

“ In conformity with the Address of the House of Assembly, Delegates were appointed to proceed to England to unite with Delegates from Canada and Nova Scotia in arranging with the Imperial Government for the Union of British North America.

“ I congratulate you upon the successful manner in which those Gentlemen discharged the important and delicate mission confided to them. I will direct the Papers connected with the subject to be laid before you.

“ Her Majesty the Queen, with that earnest solicitude for the welfare of all Her Subjects which she has always evinced, having been graciously pleased to assent to the Act for the Union of Canada, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick, in which the immediate construction of the Inter-Colonial Railway was secured ; I feel confident that the people of this Province, ever distinguished for their loyalty, will cheerfully unite in giving effect to the provisions of that Act, and that, under Providence, it will be productive of lasting benefit to New Brunswick.

“ Your attention will be called to the changes necessarily consequent upon the Union.

“ It is, I know, a source of rejoicing to you all that the Imperial Parliament has authorized the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to guarantee the Interest on Three Millions of Pounds Sterling, for the construction of the Inter-Colonial Railway ; an object so long desired by the inhabitants of this Province, so necessary for defence, for the developement of its resources, the advancement of its material interests, the more perfect union of the different Provinces, and the consolidation and perpetuation of British power on this Continent.

“ The success which, during the past year, has attended Agricultural and Lumbering operations, affords cause for gratification and thankfulness ; and I trust that the depression, which unfortunately at present exists in the important business of Ship building (a business in which this Province has been so pre-eminently distinguished) may soon cease, and that the commercial prosperity of your Sea Ports may be thus restored.

“ I consider it my imperative duty to express my opinion, as to the necessity of the Militia being placed upon a more efficient footing ; for the determination evinced by the Imperial Government, to maintain the integrity of this portion of the Empire, demands corresponding exertions on the part of this Province.

“ The Officers of that Force are, I am aware, most desirous that immediate steps may be taken to attain that object ; and it affords me the greatest satisfaction to be able to bear testimony to the zealous and soldier-like feeling, which pervades both the Volunteers and Militia of the Province.

“ By the Imperial Act of Union, the power to enact Laws regulating the Militia, and for defensive purposes, is vested in the Parliament of Canada ; otherwise I should have pressed upon your attention the necessity of preparing the able-bodied men of the Province, by Military drill, exercise, and organization, to defend their homes and their country. At present I