

reputation is increasing throughout the world; our Fisheries have been successful, and the protection afforded to them on behalf of Great Britain by Vice Admiral Sir George Seymour and those under his command, will, I doubt not, be duly acknowledged by you.

"New Brunswick has been exempt from the visitation of those diseases which have prevailed elsewhere; and we may be thankful that the storm of War which seems impending over Europe does not threaten our peaceful shores. I know well however that if the honor of the Mother Country should involve her in hostilities, your loyalty to our Queen, and your sympathy with our fellow subjects, would stir every bosom and arouse every feeling in favour of the British Flag.

"With regard to measures of internal interest, I believe that the Railroad from the Gulf of Saint Lawrence to Saint John will advance in accordance with your wishes. I have full confidence in the honor and resources of those who have undertaken its construction.

"Late in the Autumn an unexpected freshet caused some damage to our Roads and Bridges. Under the advice of my Council I have advanced such funds as were absolutely necessary for maintaining the communications of the Country. I have also taken steps for laying before you trustworthy information with regard to several considerable Bridges which require immediate repair or renewal. I need not on this occasion repeat the deep conviction which I feel of the necessity for some system of efficient inspection and responsible control over this important department of your public administration.

"I feel it my duty to recommend you to pass some Bill for securing Passengers and Merchandise against wilful carelessness or culpable neglect in the construction and management of Steamers.

"I have issued the money granted by you in your last Session for the enlargement of the Lunatic Asylum. I have every reason to believe that the management of that Institution is satisfactory.

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

"It affords me sincere pleasure to congratulate you on the prosperous state of our finances. The Revenue of 1852 was greatly in advance of that received in the previous year, but the increase of our resources, in the twelve months just ended, shows still more evident marks of a flourishing trade, and proves an increased enjoyment of comforts on the part of our labouring population.

"I trust you will sanction the step taken by the Government in paying off by anticipation the balance of the Debt funded in 1843, and due in London in this and the three following years. After discharging the floating balances due at the end of 1852, an offer on the part of the Government to take up these Debentures was made and accepted, so that the Province may now be considered as virtually free from debt. At the same time the balance now in hand, and the probable amount of the Revenue for 1854, will, I trust, leave at your disposal funds amply sufficient for the ordinary services of the Province.

"You will have it in your power to deal as you please with the one per cent. Loan Duty. You may think that this impost, though light in itself, is vexatious from its separate collection, both to the importer and the Revenue Officer.

"It is hardly necessary for me to observe that the increased importance of our finances properly demands increased vigilance and responsibility in their management and control.

*Mr.*