

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

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

" Towards the close of the year 1865 the Lieutenant Governor, in conjunction with the Governments of the other British North American Provinces, appointed a Commission to make enquiries, with a view to opening new channels of Trade with the West Indies and South America. The Report of this Commission will be laid before you.

" A large increase of Trade with these Countries will afford a wider scope for the enterprise of our Merchants, and must be productive of general advantage.

" In leaving you to your Legislative duties, I must assure you of my confident belief that your deliberations will tend to the welfare of New Brunswick; and you will readily join with me in grateful thanks to Almighty God, for the peace and prosperity which have fallen to your lot, and in a heartfelt prayer, that the changes which will shortly be made in your position, as an integral portion of the British Empire, may result, as well in the developement of the vast natural resources of the Province, as in the increased honor and renown of the Mother Country."

Which being ended, the Assembly withdrew, and His Excellency was pleased to retire.

The Honorable the President reported His Excellency's Speech.

An Address in answer to His Excellency's Speech is moved and seconded; which being read, and adopted, is as follows:—

*To His Excellency Major General CHARLES HASTINGS DOYLE, Administrator of the Government and Commander in Chief of the Province of New Brunswick.*

*The Address of Her Majesty's Legislative Council in General Assembly.*

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—

We, Her Majesty's dutiful and loyal Subjects, the Legislative Council of New Brunswick, thank Your Excellency for your Speech at the opening of the Session.

We rejoice to hear of the success which has attended the labours of the Delegates 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; and we thank Your Excellency for directing the Papers connected with the subject to be laid before us.

We are well assured that the people of this Province will cordially unite in giving effect to the provisions of the Act of Union, and we are confident that it will be productive of lasting benefit to New Brunswick.

Our attention will be given to the changes necessary in consequence of the Union.

We are gratified to learn that the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury have been authorized by the Imperial Parliament to guarantee the Interest upon Three Millions of Pounds Sterling, for the construction of the Inter-Colonial Railway, an object so long desired by the people of this Province, so necessary to our defence and the advancement of our material interests, so indispensable to our perfect union with the other Provinces, and one that will tend to the consolidation and perpetuation of British power on this Continent.