

obtained a copy, which he read to the House, and is as follows :—

Mr President and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council.

Mr Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

Her Gracious Majesty the Queen has been pleased to announce to Her Parliament, that she has given Her consent to a Marriage between His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales and Her Royal Highness the Princess Alexandra of Denmark.

I am confident that you will receive this announcement with the greatest pleasure, and that you will heartily unite in expressing to Her Majesty your congratulations on an event so conducive to Her own happiness, that of Her family, and the welfare of the Nation.

The remembrance of the visit of His Royal Highness to this Island, gives additional interest to this Marriage.

The Secretary of State for the Colonies, has laid before the Queen the Petition passed by the Legislature last Session, praying Her Majesty to use Her influence to obtain for this Island privileges in respect of Shipping, similar to those which have been conceded by the French Government to the Province of Canada.

I am requested to inform you that the question of extending these privileges to Vessels built in any of Her Majesty's North American Provinces, is under the consideration of the Government of France.

The Colonial Minister has intimated to me that the Commissioners appointed by the Queen, to inquire into the differences existing between Landowners and their Tenants, have exceeded their Powers in the Report which they have made.

His Grace is consequently unable to advise Her Majesty to assent to two Acts, passed during last Session, and intended to give validity to that Report.

Papers on the subject will be laid before you.

I am confident, that you will deliberate on a question of such interest to your constituents, and the Colony, with a determination to use your utmost endeavours to obtain a solution of those differences, which have so long retarded the prosperity of this Island.

Mr Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

I have directed the Estimates of the present year, and the Public Accounts for the past, to be laid before you.

I observe with regret that the Expenditure for the year 1862 has largely exceeded the Revenue.

The Revenue has fallen short of that of the preceding twelvemonth. This without doubt is in a great measure owing to the derangement of our Commerce, the result of the continuance of the unhappy struggle in the neighboring Republic.

I would direct your attention to the sum which is annually expended on Education. This item alone absorbs nearly one half of the Revenue, and it is, moreover, an expenditure ever increasing with the Population.

The proceeds of the Assessment on Lands, specially

devoted to this service, are altogether disproportionate to the Expenditure which it entails.

The necessity for reducing that item of Public Expenditure, or of raising an additional Revenue to meet it, is imperative.

You will, I am confident, bestow a careful consideration on the Financial condition of the Colony generally, with a view to adopting such measures, as may be deemed necessary to equalize Revenue and Expenditure, and to maintain, unimpaired, the Public Credit.

Mr President and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:

Mr Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

I have been desired by His Grace the Duke of Newcastle to invite you to give your earnest consideration to the system by which Money Votes are initiated in the House of Assembly.

In the Mother Country, and in several of the Colonies under Constitutions similar to your own, the Executive Government is directly responsible for the Financial condition of the country.

It is for you to consider the propriety of introducing this system.

A measure will therefore be proposed to you for vesting in the Lieutenant Governor and His Responsible Advisers the exclusive power of introducing measures for the appropriation of the Revenue.

Correspondence on the subject will be laid before you.

The Act changing the Constitution of the Legislative Council, by rendering it Elective, has received the sanction of Her Majesty, and has been carried into operation.

The Constitutional position and functions of the Council remain exactly what they were: Its deliberations will be strengthened by a consciousness of popular support, while its construction is such as to reflect the settled wishes, rather than the transitory impulses of the People.

The qualification of Electors under the present Law renders it advisable that the Electors should be registered, and a measure to that effect will be brought before you.

I with confidence commit to you the important business which will come under your consideration in the course of the Session now opened.

The House then proceeded to the choice of Officers; and thereupon—

Resolved, That John Macneill, Esq., be re-appointed to the office of Clerk of the House.

And he took the Oaths and his seat.

Resolved, That Mr William Maclean be re-appointed to the office of Clerk Assistant of the House.

And he took the Oaths and his seat.