

"I am inclined to believe that the formation of Fishery Societies, and the steps taken by the Executive in pursuance of the Act of last Session to protect the Spawning Grounds and River Fisheries, will all prove measures beneficial to this branch of industry.

"The Returns of the Census are in active preparation, but the mass of matter is such that I fear it will not be ready to lay before you in a satisfactory shape very early in the Session. I have directed all possible care to be taken in digesting the information obtained. Of the results of the Returns I cannot yet speak with confidence.

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

"The improvement in the Revenue during the past year is again a subject for rejoicing. You will bear in mind that the comparison between 1851 and 1850, owing to a change of the time to which the Accounts are made up, is even more favourable than it might, at first sight, appear.

"I congratulate you on the flourishing state of the Provincial Finances. The demands upon the Treasury have been promptly met. The eighth annual instalment of Five thousand pounds Sterling, upon the Loan negotiated in 1844, has, as usual, been paid when it became due.

"The amount of the Loan yet remaining unpaid is only Thirty thousand pounds Sterling, which is amply provided for by the one per cent. Duty imposed by the Act passed when it was negotiated.

"I recommend you to consider the expediency of consolidating and partially amending the Laws for the collection and protection of the Revenue,—A Bill will be laid before you for effecting these objects.

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

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

"We have strong reason to be thankful to a gracious Providence, for the condition of affairs during the past year. Let it be our task in this Session, to do all that can properly be done by legislation at the present time, in aid of the efforts of our people. We may remember too with pride, that whilst we enjoy true freedom under the British Crown, we form part of an Empire, which has stood upright amid the storms of Europe and has this year especially exhibited to the world a grand and imposing spectacle of peaceful industry and good fellowship with all mankind. In dealing with the affairs of this Province, I know that you all have local interests, but I am also convinced that you will approach your legislative duties with the true constitutional feeling of an obligation resting on each of you to deliberate and act for the whole Province."

Mr. Thomson then proposed the Address to His Excellency in answer to the Speech, which he read in his place, and the same having been seconded by Mr. Williston, it was handed in to the Chair, where it was again read, and is as follows:—

To His Excellency SIR EDMUND WALKER HEAD, Baronet, Lieutenant Governor and Commander in Chief of the Province of New Brunswick, &c. &c. &c.

The Humble Address of the House of Assembly.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

1. We, the Representatives of Her Majesty's Faithful and Loyal Subjects, the People of New Brunswick, offer our thanks to Your Excellency for Your Speech at the opening of the present Session.

2. We readily appreciate the motives and objects which have led Your Excellency to call us together at this early period, and we are fully sensible that the legislation which has taken place in Canada and Nova Scotia, upon the subject of Railway communication, has made it expedient to do so; at the same time we rejoice that circumstances have enabled Your Excellency to spare the expense to the Province, and the inconvenience to ourselves, of an extraordinary Session.