

the opening of the Session, reported a draft thereof, which he handed in at the Clerk's Table, where the same was read a first time, as follows:—

*To His Excellency KER BAILLIE HAMILTON, Esq., Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Island of Newfoundland and its Dependencies, &c., &c.*

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—

We, Her Majesty's loyal subjects, the Commons of Newfoundland, in General Assembly convened, beg to thank Your Excellency for the Gracious Speech with which Your Excellency has been pleased to open the present Session.

While we unite with Your Excellency in hearty acknowledgements to Almighty God for the many mercies bestowed on this colony during the past year, we lament equally with your Excellency that, during that period, the return with unmitigated severity of the Potato disease—the failure of the Fishery in many localities,—and the suspension of the operations of the Electric Telegraph Company—have occasioned great distress among a large portion of our population, and thereby rendered it necessary for Your Excellency to exceed the grant of last Session for the Relief of the Poor. We beg to assure Your Excellency that we shall not hesitate to pass a Bill of Indemnity to meet the expenditure thus occasioned.

We reciprocate Your Excellency's congratulations upon the increase in the Revenue of the past year.

We thank Your Excellency for the promise to furnish us with copies of Despatches on the several matters which formed the subject of Addresses in the last Session; while we regret that Her Majesty's Government have declined to guarantee the re-payment of the loan of £50,000, requested by the House, for the constructing of Main Lines of Roads.

It is with unfeigned pleasure and satisfaction we learn that, in reply to our Address on the subject, Her Majesty's Government will carefully maintain our rights of Fishery. At the same time we are gratified in learning that the efforts of the Local Legislature for their protection have been attended with success—and we shall receive with much interest, with a view to the adoption of such further measures as may be necessary in this respect, the reports of the officers employed in this service. And we have to assure Your Excellency, that in accordance with Your Excellency's desire, we shall adopt such measures as may be considered necessary for the prevention of the sale of Bait to the French—for the protection of the River Salmon Fisheries on our Western coast—and for the Inspection of Pickled Fish.