

18th January, 1856.

SECOND SESSION, SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY, 19th VICTORIA.

1.—We acknowledge with gratitude the kind consideration for our personal convenience which has influenced Your Excellency in summoning the Legislature to meet on the present occasion, and at this season.

2.—We have hailed with deep gratification and thankfulness to that Power by whom Kings reign, the successes which have attended the arms of our Gracious Queen and those of Her brave Allies, in the war in which our country is engaged; and although the inhabitants of this Colony feel sensibly the present enhanced cost of the articles of subsistence consequent upon the magnitude of such war, and regret the necessity which occasions it, they do not murmur at the pressure which falls upon them as component parts of an Empire engaged in a just and defensive struggle.

3.—We feel confident that when the Reciprocity Treaty with the United States; and the enactments subsidiary thereto, shall have been sufficiently long in operation to permit them to exercise their legitimate effects upon commerce, they will result in permanent advantages to the Colony. We thank Your Excellency for the promise to lay before us a communication upon the subject, from Her Majesty's Minister at Washington.

4.—We rejoice to find that the efforts of the Government have been directed to a reduction of the heavy burthen which has been entailed upon the Public Funds, under the designation of "Relief of the Poor."

Whilst we are strongly impressed with the necessity of reducing such expenditure, and are sensible of the difficulties which surround the subject, we are assured that the proper principle upon which Government aid should be applied, whether viewed in a fiscal, social or moral light, is to require from the recipient, whenever practicable, a return in labor for the relief extended.

5.—To the Despatch of the Secretary of State on the important matters connected with the maintenance of Light Houses upon our Coast, we shall devote our best attention.

6.—We participate with Your Excellency in the sanguine expectation that vast benefits will result to this Colony from the com-