

THURSDAY, 20th JANUARY, 1842.

nefit by your advice and assistance in the conduct of public affairs; and to avail myself of the Legislative experience and local knowledge possessed by so many among you. I have endeavoured, as far as possible, to meet your understood wishes in regard to the time of convening you in General Assembly.

It is my gratifying duty to announce to you the birth of a Male Heir to the British Throne: you will, I am sure, share in the joy felt by all Subjects of our gracious Sovereign at an event so calculated to promote the domestic happiness of Her Majesty, and to assure the future prosperity of the Empire.

Although a slight decrease has taken place in the Revenue, I am glad to be able to state, that no diminution has occurred of sufficient amount to affect the scale of the public expenditure, and that all Provincial engagements, up to this period, have been punctually discharged.

The Fisheries have been as productive as in former years, the continued success of this branch of industry being in a great degree attributable to the vessels manned and fitted out with a view to its protection.

We have to be thankful for a most abundant Harvest, and there is reason to believe that the heavy expense incurred by the Province, and the efforts lately made by the Legislature with a view to the encouragement of Agriculture, and the introduction of a more scientific system of cultivation, will be attended with much future benefit.

All matters recommended to the consideration of the Executive by the Legislature during the last Session have met with due attention, and the Correspondence relating to these subjects will forthwith be communicated to you.

*Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly;*

The Accounts to the 31st of December are prepared, and shall be laid before you without delay. I trust that, on investigation, it will appear that the Provincial Funds have been neither prodigally nor injudiciously expended, and I confidently rely on your liberality to provide the requisite Supplies for the current year.

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

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

The defective state of the Law as respects Debtor and Creditor, rendering it in many cases inoperative, and, in others, unjust to both alike, has suggested to the Government the necessity of a provision by which the rights of each may be clearly defined and secured. The evident need of some enactment of this nature seems to be generally admitted, and the main principles on which such an Act ought to be founded, to be as generally conceded; every anxiety therefore has been felt by myself, and those to whose aid and advice I have had recourse, to frame a Statute on the subject, that any difficulties heretofore experienced in the arrangement of the details of a Bankrupt Law should be overcome; I hope you will find this to have been accomplished in the proposition which will be submitted to you, and that the Commercial part of the Community will no longer suffer under the want of this indispensable protection.

The Crown Officers have been engaged in a careful revision of the Criminal Law, and are prepared to propose for adoption such further amendments as are yet requisite to assimilate the Provincial Code to that of the Mother Country.

The Legislature having already entered on the consideration of the existing Law of Probate, and of the mode in which the distribution of the Estates of deceased persons should be regulated, the attention of the Government has been drawn to the subject, and a Bill, founded on a measure which has been partially approved of by the House of Assembly, will be subjected to your deliberation.

Any step which you shall consider as having a tendency to ameliorate the condition of the Indian Population of Nova-Scotia, will, I am convinced, meet with your ready concurrence; and, in asking your co-operation to this end, I feel no doubt that a Bill, which will shortly be presented to you, and which has been framed with a view to this object, will meet with a favorable reception.

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