

15th January, 1856.

SECOND SESSION, SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY, 19th VICTORIA.

A copy of His Excellency's Speech having been left with the House, it was read by the Clerk, and is as follows :—

Mr. President, and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council :

Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly :

His Excellency's
Speech.

I have summoned you to meet for the Despatch of Business, after a recess of unusually short duration ; not so much in consequence of any pressing necessity for resorting to your assistance and advice at this particular moment, as for the purpose of restoring the ordinary Sessions of the Legislature to their accustomed course, and thus enabling you to devote your attention to the public interests at that season of the year, which is understood to be most convenient with reference to your personal occupations and pursuits.

Since we were last assembled, the progress of the War, in which the resources of the United Kingdom and the spirit of its people are alike engaged, has been marked by glorious and triumphant events. It has been my gratifying duty to transmit to the foot of the Throne, the loyal congratulations of Her Majesty's faithful Subjects in this ancient possession of Her Crown, upon the great achievement of the campaign ; and I have not failed to convey to Her Majesty's Government my testimony to the heartiness and enthusiasm with which those sentiments were offered for Her Majesty's acceptance.

I have been honored with the Queen's commands to make known the gratification with which She has received these proofs of the interest which is felt by the Inhabitants of the Colony, in the success of Her Majesty's Arms and those of Her Allies.

The inevitable effect of continued hostilities upon so vast a scale, in the enhanced cost of articles of subsistence, has been peculiarly experienced in a Colony whose Inhabitants depend so extensively for their supplies, upon the imported produce of other countries.

Although the advantages which were reasonably to be anticipated from the Reciprocity Treaty with the United States, and its subsidiary enactments have, in this respect, been materially neutralized at the outset of the system it established, yet ample proof has been afforded of the benefit which the measure is calculated to confer