

" Her Majesty the Queen, with that earnest solicitude for the welfare of all Her Subjects which she has always evinced, having been graciously pleased to assent to the Act for the Union of Canada, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick, in which the immediate construction of the Inter-Colonial Railway was secured; I feel confident that the people of this Province, ever distinguished for their loyalty, will cheerfully unite in giving effect to the provisions of that Act, and that, under Providence, it will be productive of lasting benefit to New Brunswick.

" Your attention will be called to the changes necessarily consequent upon the Union.

" It is, I know, a source of rejoicing to you all that the Imperial Parliament has authorized the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to guarantee the Interest on Three Millions of Pounds Sterling, for the construction of the Inter-Colonial Railway; an object so long desired by the inhabitants of this Province, so necessary for defence, for the developement of its resources, the advancement of its material interests, the more perfect union of the different Provinces, and the consolidation and perpetuation of British Power on this Continent.

" The success which, during the past year, has attended Agricultural and Lumbering operations, affords cause for gratification and thankfulness; and I trust that the depression which unfortunately at present exists in the important business of Ship building (a business in which this Province has been so pre-eminently distinguished) may soon cease, and that the commercial prosperity of your Sea Ports may be thus restored.

" I consider it my imperative duty to express my opinion, as to the necessity of the Militia being placed upon a more efficient footing; for the determination, evinced by the Imperial Government, to maintain the integrity of this portion of the Empire, demands corresponding exertions on the part of this Province.

" The Officers of that Force are, I am aware, most desirous that immediate steps may be taken to attain that object; and it affords me the greatest satisfaction to be able to bear testimony to the zealous and soldier-like feeling, which pervades both the Volunteers and Militia of the Province.

" By the Imperial Act of Union the power to enact Laws regulating the Militia, and for defensive purposes, is vested in the Parliament of Canada; otherwise I should have pressed upon your attention the necessity of preparing the able-bodied men of the Province, by Military drill, exercise, and organization, to defend their homes and their country. At present I can only express my sincere desire that every means may be adopted for this purpose; and I well know that Her Majesty's subjects in New Brunswick will consider no sacrifice too great to attain so important an object.

" You will, I am sure, agree with me in the opinion that the Rifle Association which has been recently organized, will be of great service in stimulating the military ardour and keeping alive the loyal zeal of the Volunteers and Militia. It is my pleasing duty to inform you that this Association has met with marked success.

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

" I have given directions that the Accounts of the Provincial Income, and Expenditure, for the past year, should be laid before you. You will be gratified to find that the Revenue was considerably in excess of the Expenditure, notwithstanding the large sum required for defensive purposes, in consequence of the threatened attack of lawless desperadoes on the Frontier. Estimates also for the current year have been prepared and will be submitted to you.