

thereto, the Honorable the President of the Council, by command of His Excellency, informed the Members of the Assembly that it would be necessary for them to retire to their Chamber and proceed to the appointment of a Speaker; which being done, and the choice approved of, His Excellency the Governor was pleased to open the present Session of the Legislature with the following gracious Speech to both Houses:—

*Mr. President and Honorable Gentlemen of the Council :*

*Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Honorable House of Assembly :*

For the third time since I have been charged with the administration of the Government I now have the pleasure of again meeting you in Session assembled : and I recur with much satisfaction to your advice and co-operation.

Since we last met, the successful laying of the Atlantic Telegraph Cables between Europe and America has added another great work to the achievements of modern science and enterprise. The Colonies are thus drawn closer to the Mother Country, and their friendly intercourse with neighbouring States will be strengthened and extended by the increased facilities for communication, which always stimulate Commerce and diffuse knowledge and intelligence. Time has scarcely yet been afforded for this Colony to reap the full benefit which may be expected to accrue, but no doubt when more settled arrangements shall have enabled the Telegraph Company to reduce their charges, the immediate advantage to our Mercantile community of this new triumph of engineering skill will be more fully perceptible.

I regret that I am not able to congratulate you on the prosperity of the Colony during the past year. Unfortunately, from causes to some extent beyond the control and even the knowledge of man, the Fishery has been more unsuccessful than for many years past; and the failure of the Potato Crop, from the sudden ravages of the blight which has before visited this Colony, has been a calamity from which the labouring classes have suffered heavily. My Government have made such provision as is within their means to relieve the distress which is thus caused in many districts of the