

" A Bill for the regulation of Parish Schools has been prepared—when it is submitted to you, I am sure that it will receive at your hands all the consideration which the importance of the subject so peculiarly requires.

" The Post Office has been taken into the hands of the Provincial Government. The falling off in the amount of receipts consequent on a reduction of Postage is considerable; but we must look to increased facilities for correspondence as an ultimate source of improvement in this respect. The moral and commercial advantages of cheap and easy intercourse by letter cannot be over-estimated.

" I rejoice for similar reasons in the extension of our lines of Electric Telegraph, which I hail as one of the most useful results of private enterprise.

" The improvement of the River Saint John has been in some degree retarded during this year, by the unusual height of the water during the Summer months. I shall cause to be laid before you a Report from two Civil Engineers on the scheme for cutting through Grimross Neck, which has indeed already been sanctioned by the Legislature, but in which nothing has been done.

" I am inclined to believe that the formation of Fishery Societies, and the steps taken by the Executive in pursuance of the Act of last Session to protect the Spawning Grounds and River Fisheries, will all prove measures beneficial to this branch of industry.

" The Returns of the Census are in active preparation, but the mass of matter is such that I fear it will not be ready to lay before you in a satisfactory shape very early in the Session. I have directed all possible care to be taken in digesting the information obtained. Of the results of the Returns I cannot yet speak with confidence.

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

" The improvement in the Revenue during the past year is again a subject for rejoicing. You will bear in mind that the comparison between 1851 and 1850, owing to a change of the time to which the Accounts are made up, is even more favourable than it might, at first sight, appear.

" I congratulate you on the flourishing state of the Provincial Finances. The demands upon the Treasury have been promptly met. The eighth annual instalment of Five thousand pounds Sterling, upon the Loan negotiated in 1844, has, as usual, been paid when it became due.

" The amount of the Loan yet remaining unpaid is only Thirty thousand pounds Sterling, which is amply provided for by the one per cent. Duty imposed by the Act passed when it was negotiated.

" I recommend you to consider the expediency of consolidating and partially amending the Laws for the collection and protection of the Revenue,—A Bill will be laid before you for effecting these objects.

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

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

" We have strong reason to be thankful to a gracious Providence, for the condition of affairs during the past year. Let it be our task in this Session, to do all that can properly be done by legislation at the present time, in aid of the efforts of our people. We may remember too with pride, that whilst we enjoy true freedom under the British Crown, we form part of an Empire, which has stood upright amid the storms of Europe