

"Your attention will be called, with a view to their renewal, to several enactments which, owing to my inability to call you together at an earlier period, have either expired or are on the point of expiring. Among their number is the Act establishing the Provincial Militia. A Bill for the revival of that Force, and to provide for its increased efficiency, will immediately be laid before you; and I am confident that you will desire, at as early a period as is compatible with the due consideration of the provisions of that measure, to put the Province again into possession of a Force, of which, for the last eighty years, it has never until now been altogether destitute. Active steps have been taken, and large sums expended to improve the organization of the Militia in the neighbouring Provinces of Canada and Nova Scotia. I cannot doubt that the loyal spirit of the people of New Brunswick will prompt them to efforts of a similar character. Some correspondence on this subject has passed between the Imperial Government and myself. I have directed this correspondence to be laid before you.

"The income of the past Fiscal Year was not only largely in excess of the estimated amount, but is greater than that ever previously received in any one year; and a considerable surplus remained after all charges on the Treasury had been defrayed. I cannot, however, hold out to you any hope that the receipts of the present year will be of nearly equal amount. Trade has been depressed, and the Revenue has suffered from that depression, although I entertain hopes that some improvement may be experienced before the year closes.

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

"I have directed the Accounts of the Income and Expenditure of the past year to be laid before you.

"Estimates for the current year will also be submitted to you. They have been framed with as close a regard to economy as is consistent with a due provision for the requirements of the public service.

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

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

"Notwithstanding the temporary depression of trade, the condition of the Province is on the whole satisfactory; and a feeling of contentment and of confidence in the Institutions under which we live generally prevails. It affords me satisfaction to observe that, whatever difference of opinion may on other subjects be manifested, there is but one unanimous feeling of loyalty towards the Crown, and an universal desire to perpetuate the connection of this Province with Great Britain. I rejoice to perceive that you are fully sensible of the advantages you derive from that connection, and I cannot doubt that you will cheerfully meet the corresponding obligations which it entails."

Which being ended, the House of Assembly withdrew, and His Excellency was pleased to retire.

The Honorable Mr. Saunders reported His Excellency's Speech.

An Address in answer to His Excellency's Speech is moved and seconded; which being read—

ORDERED, That the same be taken into consideration to-morrow.

ORDERED, That the Journals of this House be printed daily, and that four hundred copies thereof be furnished for the use of this House.