

office to which you have been elected, that His Excellency is perfectly satisfied with the choice which the House of Assembly have made, and doth allow and confirm you to be their Speaker.

And hereupon, Mr. Speaker addressed His Excellency to the following effect :

May it please your Excellency ;

As you have been pleased to approve of the choice of the House of Assembly, in appointing me to be their Speaker, it now becomes my duty, as such, to request of your Excellency, as the privilege of the House, that the Members thereof, during the Session, may be freed from arrest ; that they have freedom of speech in their debates, and have free access to your Excellency on all occasions ; and I do also, in their name and behalf, beg leave to claim all their ancient rights and privileges.

The President of the Council then replied :

MR. SPEAKER ;

I am commanded by His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor to say, that His Excellency being fully assured of the prudence, loyalty and good affection of the House of Assembly, most willingly grants to them all their privileges, conformably to ancient usage, the laws of the land, and Her Majesty's Instructions.

The House being returned, Mr. Speaker reported, that when the House did attend His Excellency this day in the Council Chamber, His Excellency was pleased to make a Speech to both Houses of the Legislature, of which, Mr. Speaker said, he had, to prevent mistakes, obtained a copy, which was read by the Clerk, and is as followeth :—

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

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

I have assembled you at the earliest possible period after the General Election, and I am confident that you will apply yourselves with zeal and diligence to the consideration of such measures as may tend to promote the welfare of the Colony.

I regret to announce to you the death of the Queen Dowager of England. The loss of that most excellent Princess has been deeply mourned by all classes of Her Majesty's Subjects, to whom her many eminent virtues rendered her the object of universal esteem and affection.

You will, I am sure, unite with me in gratefully acknowledging the goodness of Providence in averting from our shores that fatal disease which has ravaged so many countries, and in blessing with an abundant harvest the labors of the industrious husbandman.

The Imperial Parliament has passed an Act enabling Colonial Legislatures to regulate their internal Posts, and I am happy to think that we may now look for the establishment of a moderate and uniform rate of Postage throughout British North America.

The important change which has taken place in the Navigation Laws of Great Britain cannot fail to interest you deeply. Among other results from that change, I hope for a considerable increase in the demand for our Island Vessels—a trade in which, I believe, we can compete, on at least equal terms, with any British Colony.

Since the last Session, the removal of restrictions upon our commercial intercourse with the United States, has engaged my attention ; and from the unanimity of feeling which prevailed among the Members of the Executive of the different Provinces, who met at Halifax last Autumn, together with the desire of Her Majesty's Government to give effect to any well considered measures which may benefit these Colonies, I trust that our commerce will receive its full share of the advantages which may be expected.

You are aware that Acts to authorize the reciprocal interchange of staple productions with this Island have been passed by the Legislatures of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Canada ; and I recommend for your consideration the propriety of responding to them with that spirit of liberality and kindly feeling which should characterize our relations with the sister Provinces.

I would also suggest to your consideration the expediency of an alteration in the Act for the recovery of Small Debts ; its present operation pressing heavily on the Public funds, which in many cases, are burdened with the maintenance of Debtors confined in the Jails of the several Counties.

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

The Accounts for the past, and the Estimates for the current year, will be laid before you.

I feel confident of your readiness to provide for the due performance of the Public Service ; and you may be assured that the utmost economy will be observed by the Executive, in the expenditure of the Public Moneys intrusted to its disposal.

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

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

You will perceive, with satisfaction, an improvement in the Revenue, which, though slight, may be taken as an indication that the productive resources of the Island are beginning to recover from the state of depression under which they suffered. The increase in the registered tonnage of Shipping during the past year, is also gratifying.

I have received replies to your Addresses to the Queen, which were intrusted to my care, and they shall be immediately laid before you.

I shall communicate with you, as usual, by Message, upon all matters of Public Interest, which it may be necessary to submit for your consideration during the progress of the Session.