

Mr. Hamilton, pursuant to leave given, presented to the House a bill for the better protection of the estates and rights of married women; and the same was read a first time, and ordered to be read a second time.

Married women's bill.

Mr. Kaulback then proposed the following address, in answer to the speech of His Excellency, and moved that the same do pass, viz. :—

Address in answer to speech moved.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY

SIR RICHARD GRAVES MACDONNELL,

*Knight, Companion of the Most Honorable Order of the Bath, Lieutenant Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over Her Majesty's Province of Nova Scotia, and its Dependencies, &c., &c., &c.*

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—

1°. We the Representatives of the people of Nova Scotia thank your Excellency for the speech with which you have been pleased to open this Session.

2°. We beg to congratulate your Excellency upon your assumption of the Government of this Province, and we have no doubt that the most agreeable relations will be established between your Excellency and the members of the Legislature.

3°. The bountiful harvest we have enjoyed and the increase of the trade and revenue of the country are indeed auspicious, placing us in the best possible position to deal with the great questions submitted for our deliberation.

4°. The report from the delegates appointed to confer upon the union of the Maritime Provinces, and the resolutions of the Conference held at Quebec proposing a union of the different Provinces of British North America, together with the correspondence on that subject, will obtain at our hands the deliberate and attentive consideration demanded by a question of such magnitude and importance, and fraught with consequences so momentous to us and our posterity.

5°. The question of internal defence will not fail to engage our serious attention, and we will be happy to afford to your Excellency every aid in our power in placing that branch of the public service in a still more effective condition.

6°. The public accounts, when laid before us, will receive our careful inspection, and we will be glad to find in the estimates the evidence of such economy as is consistent with the exigencies of the public service.

7°. The abrogation of the Reciprocity Treaty would in our opinion operate most unfavorably upon the trade between this Province and the United States, and certainly would not improve the friendly relations which have been so largely promoted by its operation. We will be glad to receive the correspondence on this subject.

8°. The papers concerning the International Exhibition to be held at Dublin, will receive the attention due to the proper representation of the products of this Province.

9°. We will not fail to devote our most earnest efforts to aid in maturing any improvements which may be suggested in the act for the better encouragement of education, a subject so deeply interesting and important to the whole country.

10°. It is gratifying to know that the extension of the railway to Pictou has been placed under contract, and will be carried on with despatch.

11°. We will give due consideration to any proposals for the construction of the lines provided for in the resolution which passed both branches of the Legislature at the last Session.

12°. The report upon the St. Peter's canal will obtain our careful examination.