

Who being come, with their Speaker,

His Excellency was pleased to open the Session by the following Speech to both Houses :—

“ Mr. President, and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council,

“ Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,

“ **I**N calling you together at the usual period of the year, it has been gratifying to me to find that, however important are the interests depending on your deliberations, the situation of the Province has not required that I should subject you to the inconvenience of meeting earlier in Session.

“ From the Reports which I have received in regard to the failure of the Potato Crop in the last year, and which will be laid before you, I apprehend that in some Districts the scarcity will be severely felt ; but the Harvest being otherwise favourable, I indulge a hope that, with due precautions, and the prospect of continued employment for the people, the distress apprehended in the ensuing season may, in a great measure, be averted.

“ The Fisheries may henceforth be expected to constitute a valuable resource to the Province, under the encouragement you have given to them ; and I have the satisfaction to inform you, that on the representations made to Her Majesty’s Government, the further extension of the privileges sought by the American Government will not be conceded.

“ From recent occurrences some defects in the Criminal Laws have been made apparent, which I recommend to your attention.

“ Some further revision of the Election Laws will also be required.

“ The Act of 1844, for the settlement of the Indian Reserves, has been found to be defective, without amendment, for the attainment of the objects contemplated.

“ The views of Her Majesty’s Government in regard to the Act of the last Session for the regulation of King’s College, will be communicated to you, and I hope will meet with your concurrence and support.

“ Abstracts of the Reports of the Inspectors of the Parochial and other Schools having been printed for greater facility of reference, I rely on your adoption of effectual measures to remedy their acknowledged defects.

“ Various Reports relative to the erection of a Provincial Lunatic Asylum will be laid before you, and which, from the condition of that afflicted class of persons in the present defective establishment, will claim your early consideration.

“ Some improvements will be required in the Provincial Penitentiary for the better security and accommodation of its inmates.

“ The Survey undertaken by Her Majesty’s Government, with a view to the opening of a Military Road through these Provinces, having been ably executed by the Officers employed upon it, a proposal has for some time been under consideration for the construction of a Railway, for which the Country has been found to present great facilities.