

Mr Speaker, Honorable Gentlemen, and Gentlemen :

Having, at the opening of the first Session of the Legislature of this Island under its present form of Constitution, in January last, so fully laid before you the views which I had been led to form on various subjects which appeared to me to connect themselves with the interests of the Colony, and to which I therefore deemed it consistent with my duty to direct your attention, it only remains for me upon the present occasion, to renew to you my acknowledgments for the attention which was given by you to those observations and suggestions, and again to invite it to one or two subjects which appear to me to require your Legislative care and encouragement. But, before I proceed to do this, it is my pleasing duty to offer you my congratulations upon the Birth of another Princess, and upon the continued health and increased happiness of a Sovereign so deservedly dear to the Nation, and whose safety we delight in believing to be the peculiar care of a Merciful Providence.

His Excellency's
Speech.

Copies of several Despatches from Her Majesty's Secretary of State, on various subjects, will be communicated to you, by which, among other matters of interest and importance, you will find that the Royal Assent has been given to Seventeen of the Acts passed by you during the last Session; and, with regard to the remainder, I have no reason to doubt that they will also receive the Royal allowance, so soon as the necessary forms shall have been gone through.

I have directed that Detailed Statements of all the Receipts and Disbursements which have taken place down to the end of the year just closed be laid before you; from which you will, I trust, find that the Tariff of Colonial Duties, established by the Act passed during the last Session, is working beneficially as respects the Revenue, and without any undue pressure either upon the importer or consumer; that the Financial condition of the Colony is sound and satisfactory, and that the expenditure under the several heads of appropriation, have been made with a due regard to economy and to the public interests. I cannot, therefore, entertain any doubt that your Grants to Her Majesty, in aid of the Public Service for the ensuing year, will be characterized by your usual liberality.

Detailed Reports of the progress which has been made, and the Sums which have been expended during the operations of the past season, in the repair and construction of Roads and Bridges, will also be sent down to you; and by them you will, I trust, be satisfied, not only that due exertion has been used in carrying into effect the enlightened intentions of the Legislature on these important subjects, but that the liberal appropriations made by you during the last Session, if they should not prove fully adequate to the completion of all the improvements which have been begun under this head of Service, will, nevertheless, be found sufficient for the operations of the ensuing year;—accordingly, no demand for Grants in aid of Roads or Bridges for 1844, is included in the Estimates which will be laid before you.—I do not conclude this part of my Address, without adverting to the beneficial effects which have attended the expenditure of this money, in the employment which it has been the means of affording to the poorer Inhabitants of the Outports in general, but more especially of those where a partial failure of the Fishery has occurred, and who, but for the relief thus afforded to them, must, with their families, have been exposed to much distress during the present winter.—The seasonable outlay of this public money, therefore,—as well by the amount of benefit which it has been the means of conferring upon this industrious and most valuable class of men, as by the improvement of the Island in respect of one of its most prominent wants,—must be regarded as a further