

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

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

" HAVING assumed the Government of this Province after the close of the last Session, I should have been anxious to have met you earlier if the public affairs required that I should have called you together before the ordinary period.

" The distresses in Saint John occasioned by Commercial embarrassment and the late calamitous Fires, admitted only of partial alleviation ; and relying on your support in measures of a general nature, which would be calculated to establish the credit and develop the resources of the Province in a manner likely to prove beneficial to all classes, I have felt every confidence that the sufferings which have been occasioned by these occurrences would be transient, under the beneficent dispensations of Divine Providence, for whose bounties this Province has such abundant cause of thankfulness.

" I cordially congratulate you on the auspicious event which has been recently announced of the Birth of an Heir Apparent to the Throne—an event which has given heartfelt satisfaction to all Her Majesty's faithful subjects.

" Aware of the importance you attach to a settlement of the Boundary, I may be permitted to hope that a sense of the great benefits that would be derived to the Inhabitants of the contiguous States, as well as of the British Provinces, from the termination of the dispute, will lead to an early and satisfactory issue of the negotiations between Her Majesty's Government and that of the United States.

" In the consideration of measures by which the general welfare may be promoted, I have been impressed with a conviction of the paramount importance of providing for the introduction of those principles of Municipal Government which are recognised in the Constitution of England, and which I am persuaded will be found peculiarly adapted to the situation of the people of this Province.

" On the local Institutions recently introduced into a neighbouring Province, some important ameliorations have been based, for the success of which, the support and co-operation of the people is essential.

" In these views I recommend the subject to your early attention.

" The judicious application of the public credit for the investment of capital in works of general utility and in assisting the local communities where their own resources may be inadequate for such objects, would accelerate the improvement and settlement of the Province, and for the efficient execution of all such works, I recommend to you the incorporation of a Board of Works, to be invested with adequate powers and subject to due responsibilities.

" To facilitate intercourse and to promote the occupation of the vast Tracts of fertile and unreclaimed Territory in the Province, you have appreciated the importance of opening Roads. These works and others will require the aid of science for their survey and due execution.

" Amongst the most important which have been proposed are the completion of the Great Road to Canada—the opening of direct communications to the Restigouche, and the survey of that River—a Canal for connecting the waters of the Bay of Fundy with the Gulf of Saint Lawrence—the construction of Dry Docks in Saint John—the Port
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