

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

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

“ IT is with great regret that I announce to you the decease of an illustrious Lady, the Queen Dowager of England, whose kindness and benevolence had endeared Her to the English Nation.

“ At the close of your last Session, I expressed a confident hope that, by the blessing of Providence, an abundant Harvest might restore the prosperity of the Country. I now with sincere pleasure congratulate you on the Crops which have been vouchsafed to us. I trust with equal confidence, that our Commerce may revive, and that such Manufactures as the Province can advantageously carry on, may thrive within our limits.

“ Another ground for thankfulness on the part of the people of this Colony, is the fact that we have been spared the ravages of that disease which has proved so fatal in England and elsewhere.

“ In pursuance of the Resolution of the House of Assembly, passed in the last Session, Professor James Johnston has visited this Province, and after traversing it in every direction, has prepared a Report, which will be placed in your hands. I am persuaded that the publication of his views, with reference to your Agriculture, will greatly tend to promote an Immigration of a satisfactory character, and will stimulate the industry of those who have perhaps hitherto undervalued the resources of their native Country.

“ I earnestly recommend to your consideration Professor Johnston's suggestions. I think it especially important that an accurate Survey and Report on the extent and probable productiveness of our Coal Field, should be obtained from persons practically conversant with the working of that mineral; and that a plan for imparting Agricultural instruction to all classes, should form the subject of your deliberations.

“ A most important change has taken place in the Navigation Laws of the Mother Country—a change which cannot fail to interest this Colony. I know that fears have been entertained by many persons as to the effect of this alteration on the trade of New Brunswick. I may be sanguine, but I confidently hope that these fears will prove groundless; and that the advantages for Ship building enjoyed by this Province will enable us to compete with any Nation, whilst the removal of restrictions on the Cargoes of British Ships in Foreign Ports will create an increased demand for those Vessels, which form one of our staple exports.

“ It will be for you to consider how far it is expedient to address Her Most Gracious Majesty, under the provisions of the Imperial Act, with reference to the Coasting Trade of this Province and the other North American Colonies. The Members of the several Executive Councils of Canada, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and New Brunswick, who met at Halifax in the course of last Autumn, felt, I believe, the full importance of increased facilities for Trade, and I know that Her Majesty's Government at home, are anxious to concur in any measures which, by promoting greater freedom of intercourse, whether between the Colonies themselves or other Countries, will allow our Commerce to expand and develop itself.

“ I am deeply impressed with the great commercial importance to Canada and New Brunswick, of improving the means of communication between the Bay of Fundy and the