

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

The Public Accounts, together with the Estimates for the current year, will shortly be placed before you.

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

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

A measure will be submitted for your consideration having in view an alteration in the constitution of the Legislative Council, by which the Elective principle may be brought into operation.

Your deliberation will also be invited to other important subjects, by which it is hoped the prosperity of the Province may be promoted.

You will require to make increased provision for the completion of that portion of the Hospital for the Insane, now erected, to prepare it for occupation.

The heavy liabilities connected with the indispensable progress of our public works and the inadequacy of the sum voted for the St. Peter's Canal, as exhibited by the report of the Engineer, have compelled me reluctantly to suspend further expenditure on that service until the whole question shall be reviewed by the Legislature, when, I doubt not, it will obtain the attention its importance demands.

During the six years in which I have had the honor and the happiness of presiding over the public councils of this Colony, I have endeavoured to regulate my Administration by principles, and to direct it to objects that I believed best adapted to advance the welfare of the people.

Their devoted loyalty to their Sovereign, their thorough appreciation of the value of British Institutions, and the intelligence they have evinced in carrying out the representative part of them, have rendered my duties easy and agreeable, and will, I am persuaded, greatly facilitate those that will devolve upon my successor.

Whilst addressing you from this place for the last time, I recall with pleasure and gratitude the unvarying harmony which in every stage of my Government has subsisted between my constitutional advisers and myself, the earnest co-operation which I have experienced from both branches of the Legislature, and the kindly personal feeling which has invariably been shewn to me by all classes of the community.

Wherever my future destiny may be cast, I shall always regard with the deepest interest every thing that may affect the progress in material wealth and social happiness of the Inhabitants of Nova Scotia, amongst whom I have spent so many happy years.

The members having returned to the Assembly room, the Hon. the Speaker read the Speech from the Chair.

The Hon. the Speaker announced that during the recess he had received the resignation of Alfred Whitman and Stephen Thorne, Esqrs., of their seats as members of the House.

The Hon. the Provincial Secretary laid upon the table the returns of the writs for the Townships of Annapolis and Granville.

Mr. T. D. Ruggles having duly attended at the Clerks Chair took the usual Oaths in the presence of the Hon. Hugh Bell and the Hon. M. B. Almon, commissioners, and signed the Roll.

BILL PRO FORMA.

Mr. Ryder asked leave to present a Bill to regulate the Currency. Leave was granted and the Bill was read a first time.

MOVING THE ADDRESS IN ANSWER.

Mr. McFarlane said—I rise to move the Address, which I hold in my hand, in answer to his Excellency's Speech. His Excellency has informed us that his term of office is about to expire, and that his Sovereign has been graciously pleased to remove him to another sphere of Executive duty; and, sir, although from the able and impartial manner in which his Excellency has discharged the duties imposed upon him in this Province, we cannot but regret his loss,—yet we may be permitted to congratulate him on the honor conferred by his Sovereign, and trust that in his new sphere of duty he may be as successful in developing the resources, and advancing the prosperity of that portion of her Majesty's dominions as he has been in Nova Scotia. His Excellency has alluded to the unfortunate mutiny in India, and the awful massacre of which our fellow-countrymen and countrywomen have been the victims; but, sir, while we have to deplore the occurrence of these sad events, it is pleasing and consolatory to learn that by the indomitable prowess of British arms, there is every prospect of the mutiny being speedily quelled. To us as Nova Scotians, it is matter of peculiar pride and satisfaction to know that among the bravest of those to whose keeping the maintenance of our Indian Empire has been entrusted, a son of Nova Scotia has been found occupying a prominent place,—and that the pages of after history will shew, standing side by side with Campbell and the lamented Havelock, the name of Inglis. His Excellency also informs us that a measure having in view alterations in the Constitution of the Legislative Council will be submitted for our consideration, with other important subjects; and I feel confident that when these questions come before us, this house will deal with them as their importance demand. I may, sir, in conclusion, reiterate that I have much pleasure in moving the adoption of this answer to his Excellency's Speech, and as it is the last which we shall have the pleasure of addressing to him, I trust it will be received with that unanimity and accord to which it is entitled.

THE ADDRESS.

May it Please your Excellency,—

We thank your Excellency for the Speech with which you have been pleased to open the present Session of the Legislature.

We are gratified to learn that Her Majesty, in depriving this Colony of your valuable services, has been graciously pleased to mark her sense of your administrative abilities, by promoting you to the important Government of Malta.

In common with yourself we sincerely hope that, through the blessing of the Almighty upon the indomitable prowess of British forces, the mutiny in India may be speedily extinguished.

The unequalled bravery manifested by British forces of every class will be contemplated by all Nova Scotians with especial pride, in consequence of the conspicuous position maintained by a native of this Province.

The articles of agreement entered into by Dele-