

“With respect to yourself, Sir, though His Excellency is sensible that you do not stand in need of such assurance, His Excellency will ever put the most favourable construction on your words and actions.”

Then His Excellency was pleased to open the Session with 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 am directed by the Queen to inform you that Her Majesty has been pleased to receive very graciously the Joint Address of the Legislature of this Province on the occasion of the Birth of the Son of Their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princesses of Wales.

“The Civil War which has so long raged in the neighbouring Republic appears to be drawing towards a close. The restoration of Peace will, no doubt, be hailed by you with a lively satisfaction, both as putting an end to the further effusion of blood, and as reopening to commerce channels which have, since the commencement of the War, been closed.

“The joy which pervaded the United States at the prospect of a speedy termination of hostilities has, however, been clouded by the commission of a foul crime. I know I speak your sentiments when I say that we share the feelings of indignant reprobation which the murder of the President has evoked in every honest and generous heart, and that we join in the mourning of a great and kindred people.

“In compliance with the desire expressed by Addresses from both branches of the Legislature at the last Session, I appointed Delegates to meet others appointed by the Lieutenant Governors of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, for the purpose of considering the practicability of effecting a Legislative and Administrative Union of the Maritime Provinces of British North America. The Report of these Delegates will immediately be laid before you.

“At the request of the Governor General of Canada, and with the approbation of the Queen, I also appointed Delegates to a Conference of Representatives of the British North American Colonies, held in Quebec in the month of October last, with a view of arranging the terms of a Federal Union of British North America. The Resolutions agreed to by this Conference appeared to me to be so important in their character, and their adoption fraught with consequences so materially affecting the future condition and well-being of British America, that, in order to enable the people of New Brunswick to give expression to their wishes on the subject, I determined to dissolve the then existing House of Assembly. I now submit these Resolutions to your judgment.

“You will do well to enquire whether it is possible to afford further facilities for the development and improvement of the Railway system already existing in this Province. Works for the completion and extension of the European and North American Railway, from the frontier of Nova Scotia to that of the United States, will be undertaken as soon as practicable; but any immediate steps in this direction appear to be precluded by existing legislation.

“I recommend you to consider whether it is necessary for the efficient discharge of the postal service of the Province, that the Head of that Department should be, as hitherto, one of the confidential advisers of the Crown.