

*Mr. President, and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council ;  
Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly ;*

It is gratifying to me that the state of the public business has again admitted of my calling you together, at a moment when the time required for the discharge of your Legislative functions will interfere less with your ordinary occupations than at any other season of the year.

I am confident that Her Majesty's loyal and attached subjects of this Province have sincerely shared in the joy which, since I last met you, has pervaded the rest of the Empire, at the happy birth of a Prince.

We have to be grateful for the blessing of an abundant harvest, and although some branches of the Fisheries on our coasts have been less productive than has sometimes been the case, it is a consolation to know that others have greatly prospered, and that there is no danger of a permanent diminution in this great source of comfort and independence to a hardy, enterprising, and valuable portion of our Provincial population.

*Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly ;*

The Accounts for the past, and the Estimates for the current year, will be submitted to you without delay.

I derive great satisfaction from being able to inform you, that the increase of the Revenue has been so great as to have rendered it unnecessary for me to act in accordance with your request, that I would endeavour to obtain an extension of the time within which it was originally arranged that the debt incurred to the Bank of British North America, during the year 1843, should be liquidated.

I shall take an early opportunity of acquainting you with the efforts I have made to justify the confidence you expressed in me by your Resolution of the 12th of April last.

*Mr. President, and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council ;  
Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly ;*

The augmentation of our resources is a matter of congratulation to the Province, and I trust you will find that the measures adopted by me to induce increased vigilance and efficiency in the Revenue Department, have had some effect in producing results so beneficial to the interests of Nova Scotia. I shall direct several documents relating to the above important branch of the public service to be communicated to you.

From the period of my arrival amongst you to the present time, my observation has been anxiously directed to the deficiencies of the system in operation for the diffusion of Education throughout the Country. On the first occasion in which it was my duty to address you, I brought this subject under your notice, being then, as now, convinced that it is a matter in which your knowledge of the wants, feelings, and social position of your Constituents qualifies you to Legislate successfully. In again urging this important topic on your consideration, I would especially recommend to your regard the necessity which exists for rendering more general the participation in the benefits to be derived from the Common Schools, especially throughout the remote and more indigent Settlements, the inhabitants of which stand peculiarly in need of sympathy and assistance.

Your attention will, I trust, be directed to the improvement of the Election Laws, with a view to so framing them as to secure purity of election, and diminish unnecessary expense.

I shall, on the first convenient occasion, cause to be presented for your information Despatches on several subjects of great interest to the Country.

The Hon. The Solicitor General, pursuant to leave given, presented a Bill for Equalizing the representation of the people in General Assembly, and the same was read a first time, and ordered to be read a second time.

Mr.