

cations any measure of public utility is likely to be promoted.

Although we have to lament a partial failure in the crops in some of the sections of the Island, occasioned by unseasonable frosts, it is with much satisfaction that I am enabled to congratulate you and the Colony upon the improved state of the Revenue, in which an increase is exhibited to the amount of at least one-eighth above the receipts of the preceding year.

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

The Accounts of the past year will be laid before you; and I do not allow myself to entertain any doubt of your disposition to make due provision for the exigencies of the public service.

*Mr. President, and Gentlemen of His Majesty's Council;*

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

I will communicate with you by Message upon such matters as I may from time to time have to bring under your consideration; but there are two or three subjects to which I will now advert, as well on account of their prominent importance as because I wish to place upon your records some of the impressions which have been produced in my mind during my short acquaintance with this Island.

I would in the first place invite your attention to communications of paramount interest to the whole of His Majesty's Colonies in North America, which have recently been laid before the Legislature of New Brunswick—copies of which I have directed immediately to be laid before you; and it will, I trust, appear to you that a most important extension of the privileges which these Colonies derived from their original Constitutions, has, by these Despatches, been conferred upon them—not only as regards those concessions—not reluctantly made, but freely granted, by our gracious and beneficent Sovereign, with the object of at once promoting the welfare of His Majesty's North American subjects, and thereby strengthening and increasing their attachment to the Parent State, but also by the establishment of a most satisfactory principle of uniformity in the administration of the Colonial Governments. In these boons, although not so directly benefited by all of them as those Colonies in which the Crown possesses large territorial revenues, the people of this Island will, nevertheless, I trust, discern a feeling of so truly paternal a character, as to call forth on their parts the renewed expression of those sentiments of devoted loyalty to the King, and of attachment to the parent state and to constitutional principles, which I am thoroughly convinced are no where more generally diffused or more warmly cherished than in this portion of His

Majesty's dominions; and while I confess that I should have been glad if circumstances had permitted this Island to take the lead in the public affirmation of these principles, yet I cannot but congratulate you upon the opportunity which this occasion presents, of placing upon your records what I firmly believe from all that I have myself seen and observed to be the honest unbiassed hereditary sentiments of the great body of the people of this Colony.

In adverting to the state of the Island generally, as presented to my observation during my late excursions, I would remark, that the system upon which the construction of your roads, bridges, wharves, and other improvements connected with the internal communications of the Colony, is conducted, appears to me free from objection; and I cannot here refrain from expressing the surprise and satisfaction with which I witnessed, in the course of my excursions, not only the extent but the excellence of those communications—than which I have seen nothing better in any other section of His Majesty's transatlantic possessions—and when I reflect that all this has been effected by the almost unaided efforts of the resident Colonists, who by their statute labour, and by their contributions to the Colonial Revenues as the consumers of imported goods, have been almost the sole agents in the creation of these extensive improvements, I cannot but regard them as highly creditable to the public spirit of the Colony and of its Legislature.

I am happy to be enabled to speak in terms of equal approbation of the Public Buildings of the Colony, especially the County Jails and Court Houses, the Government House and the Central Academy,—but I have remarked, with some degree of surprise, and I might add of alarm, the absence of one public Building which I cannot but regard as indispensable to every Colony—I allude to some solid and well constructed Edifice for the deposit and safe custody of all Public Records. In the Offices in which they are at present placed, it is evidently impossible to adopt adequate precautions against accident or carelessness, by the effect of either of which the Titles of almost all the property of the Island might at once be involved in ruinous and irretrievable confusion and disorder. To this state of insecurity it appears to me that no time should be lost in applying some remedy.

There is yet another Public Building of importance scarcely secondary to any other, the erection and endowment of which must, however, I apprehend, be deferred until the resources of the Colony are more fully developed,—I mean a Provincial Hospital or Infirmary, including within it a Lunatic Asylum.

With reference to Education, which, though last in the