

*Mr. President, and Gentlemen of His Majesty's Council :*  
*Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly :*

THE advices which have lately reached us from England, are of a most painful nature. The lamented indisposition of our Venerable KING, remains unchanged; and it is with infinite regret, I have to announce the Death of Her Majesty the QUEEN.

Her Majesty died on the seventeenth day of November, after a tedious illness, which she bore with the most pious fortitude and resignation.

In this National Calamity, the general feeling of sorrow has been softened by the known approach of the event; and by the pleasing reflection, that it is not until after a very long reign of fifty-seven years, and when verging upon the utmost limit of life, that Her Majesty has closed Her earthly career, amidst the tears of Her children, and the blessings of Her people.

Your firm and affectionate attachment to the Illustrious Family on the Throne, will, I am confident, join with me in presenting our deep and sincere condolence to His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, and the Royal Family, on this sorrowful occasion; expressing our just sense of the exalted virtues which have distinguished Her late Majesty through life, and which have left her memory to grace the page of History, as a model of pre-eminence excellence.

The General Assembly of this Province, perhaps, never met under circumstances that afforded more solid grounds of congratulation on the state of the Country, than it does now. The distress that prevailed two years ago, is no longer felt any where; succeeding years of abundant crops, have, under the blessing of Providence, dispelled the clouds that hung over us, and I have had the satisfaction to observe increasing prosperity in all parts of the Province. In these two years, our agriculture has been cheered up, our Fisheries have been successful, and our Commerce is reviving under the influence of an Order of the Prince Regent in Council, by which the Port of Halifax has been declared, to a certain extent, a Free Port.

A Copy of the Order of His Royal Highness shall be laid before you; and I cannot doubt, but that this measure, which promises great advantages, will be received as a fresh instance of the watchful protection of His Majesty's Government over the interests of this Province.

In committing to you the general discussion of Public Affairs, there are some points which call for my special recommendation to your attention: these I shall merely name at present, and explain myself more fully upon them in the progress of the Session.

The system now adopted for the improvement of the Roads throughout the Province, appears to me to require material alteration.

The Militia Laws also, I have found, in some points, ill suited to our circumstances: what I would suggest on that head, has in view to reduce the numbers, and to make that smaller number more efficient.

I shall call your attention to a measure tending to animate the general spirit of improvement in Agriculture; and I will submit to you the plan of an Institution in Halifax, in which the advantages of a Collegiate Education will be found within the reach of all classes of Society: and which will be open to all sects of religious persuasion.

The circumstance of meeting you for the first time in this place, leads me to congratulate you on now occupying this splendid Building—erected for the reception of the Legislature, the Courts of Justice, and all the Public Offices. It stands, and will stand, I hope, to the latest posterity, a proud record of the Public Spirit, at this period of our History: And as I do consider this magnificent work equally honorable and useful to the Province, I recommend it to your continued protection.

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

I have ordered the Public Accounts to be laid before you: I trust you will find cause to approve them.

You will observe that there is a considerable diminution in the receipts of the Revenue