

*" Mr. President, and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council,*

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

**"H**AVING called you together for a special purpose, at a season of the year when the absence from your homes, of some among you, may be attended with inconvenience, I will not unnecessarily prolong that absence by directing your attention at present to any other than the immediate objects for which I have deemed it my duty to convene you. These objects are to invite you to take into your consideration, as well the measure and the conditions of the relief which you may deem it expedient to extend to such of the sufferers from the effects of the late calamitous Fire, by which the city of Saint John has again been visited, as may require such assistance, as the still more important subject of devising and passing Legislative enactments, making more effectual provision for the future prevention or prompt extinction of Fires, (and the protection of property upon such occasions,) and thereby restoring confidence to the inhabitants, and upholding the commercial credit of that wealthy and enterprising City.—You will, I doubt not, approach the consideration of the details of these important matters with an entire conviction of the intimate, the indissoluble connexion of the interests of its great Commercial Emporium with those of the Province at large.

" It only remains for me to renew to you the assurance of my sincere desire to co-operate with you upon this, as upon every other occasion, in devising and maturing such measures as may tend to promote the general satisfaction and prosperity of the inhabitants of this loyal Province.

" I will cause copies of several Despatches to be laid before you, by which you will find that our Gracious Sovereign is duly sensible of the loyalty and devoted attachment to Her Majesty of Her faithful subjects in this Province, and is highly gratified at observing the cordiality subsisting between all the Branches of the Provincial Legislature.

" You will also find that prompt attention has been paid by Her Majesty's Government to your representations regarding the protection of the Fisheries and other matters connected with the welfare and interests of New Brunswick.

" I have satisfaction in acquainting you that Her Majesty's Government has recently sent out to this Province a Commission, composed of two Gentlemen of eminent scientific attainments, for the purpose of making a Topographical examination of certain parts of the Territory on the Frontier of this Province and Lower Canada, which is in dispute between Great Britain and the United States. The Commissioners have commenced their operations, and I indulge a confident hope that the result of their explorations may enable the General Governments of the two Nations to bring this long agitated question to an early and amicable determination.

" In conclusion, I will offer you my sincere congratulations upon the abundant Harvest with which it has pleased the Bountiful Giver of all good things to bless this section of the Globe,—a blessing in which this Province has largely participated."

Which being ended,

The House of Assembly withdrew, and His Excellency was pleased to retire.

The Honorable the President reported His Excellency's Speech.

ORDERED,