

*Mr. President and Honourable Gentlemen of the Council;*

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

Her most Gracious Majesty having been pleased to appoint me to the government of this ancient and loyal colony, I deferred not to accept the important trust, nor delayed to come among you beyond the time required for completing the necessary arrangements which would enable me to enter upon the duties of my office.

I have undertaken those duties with a due sense of their responsibility, an earnest hope, with your cordial co-operation, for their fulfilment, and a reliance on the Divine mercy to direct our Councils to the furtherance of the public good, and the prosperity of all classes of the energetic and hardy people, with whom I am now associated.

I have to congratulate you upon the assurance contained in Her Majesty's Gracious Speech to Parliament, of her continuous solicitude for the welfare of Her North American Colonies, and upon the determination expressed by Her Majesty's Government to prevent, by efficient means, the recurrence of those encroachments on the British Fisheries of North America, so frequently complained of in former years.

The visit to our shores, during the past summer, of Vice-Admiral Sir George Seymour, the distinguished Naval Commander-in-Chief on the Station, and the information which he will have gained from personal observation and inquiry, of our local requirements, cannot fail to prove highly beneficial to the all-important interests involved in the due protection and encouragement of our Fisheries.

I shall cause to be laid before you such documents as will put you in possession of the steps taken during the recess, in pursuance of the grant made in the last Session of the Legislature, for the protection of the Fisheries in the vicinity of the Straits of Belle Isle.

From the reports of the persons charged with the performance of this service, you will be gratified to learn that the measures adopted have been attended with much success.

I commend to your continued attention a subject affecting the whole of our commerce.

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

The estimates and public accounts will be laid before you, and I rely with confidence on your liberality to make provision for the public service.

Owing, I lament to say, to a more than usual prevalence of that destructive visitation, the potato disease, during the past season, and to the almost entire failure of the fishery in many localities, it became imperatively necessary, in the Autumn, for the Administrator of the Government to assume the responsibility of the expenditure of a considerable sum of money, for the relief of those who had been reduced by these unforeseen calamities to extreme destitution.

In the discharge of the arduous and responsible duty which thus necessarily devolved upon the Administrator, the measures adopted by him will, I am confident, be found by you to have been judicious and considerate, as well in regard to the applicants for relief, as to the condition of the Public Revenue.

In all cases where it was practicable, return in labour for Public Works was obtained for the relief granted.

I depend upon your readiness to grant an indemnity for the expenditure thus unavoidably incurred.

*Mr. President and Honourable Gentlemen of the Council:*

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

The true interests of the Colony consist in the reasonable union and concurrence of the different branches of the Legislature in promoting the general welfare of the people, in the advancement of Religion, the encouragement of Education, the improvement of the Administration of Justice, obedience to the Laws, and a steady perseverance in the healthy and remunerative occupations which are suitable to the climate, and congenial to the inhabitants: and I look forward with