

Speech.

*Mr. Speaker, Honourable Gentlemen, and Gentlemen :—*

It will now be our gratifying duty to proceed in finishing the work of improvement which has been so well begun, by endeavouring to render this final Session the crowning act of what cannot be regarded as otherwise than an eminently successful experiment in Colonial Legislation, the chief merit of which is justly due to the admirable manner in which the efforts of this Amalgamated Assembly to promote the general good have been sustained by the peaceable, orderly, and contented conduct of the loyal inhabitants of Newfoundland; in a word by that concurrence of public opinion, tacitly but unequivocally declared, without which it is not possible that Legislation can ever be useful or effectual.

It has pleased a gracious Providence to continue to our beloved Queen and the Royal Family, the blessings of health, and thereby to enable Her Majesty to render herself the instrument of drawing closer the ties of amity and cordiality with surrounding nations by means of that kindly and gracious personal intercourse with their respective Sovereigns, so congenial to Her Majesty's feelings and disposition, and so fraught with peaceful blessings to her people.

In this Island we have to be grateful for a comparatively favourable season, as well in respect to the produce of the sea as of the land. The great advantages to be derived from the cultivation of the soil, are fast forcing themselves upon the conviction of the inhabitants of Newfoundland, who, I rejoice in believing, duly appreciate the independence which it is already becoming the means of conferring upon them; more especially in seasons like the present, when those Colonies from which a large portion of their supplies in one of the most essential articles of agricultural produce, the potato, has been visited by a partial failure of that crop; a calamity from which this Island has happily been exempt.

I have directed the usual statements of the receipts and disbursements of the past year to be laid before you; and I do not withhold my congratulations on the satisfactory state of the colonial revenue.

I am happy to inform you that the lines of roads, for which such liberal appropriations have been made by you during the last three sessions, are rapidly advancing towards completion; and it is scarcely necessary to add that the incalculable benefits which they are diffusing are duly appreciated, intimately connected as these improvements are, more especially the completion of the lines of the "GREAT ROADS," with all the most important interests of the colony, including not only the advantage of every intercourse between the provincial capital and all the principal settlements of the Island, but involving even the more satisfactory administration of the laws in the more remote districts. I do not refrain from strongly urging upon you that it could not fail to be a source of much satisfaction to Her Majesty's government, and of just congratulation to yourselves, if, during this final session of the Amalgamated Assembly, you should be enabled to add to the many benefits which you have already conferred upon the colony, those to which I have now adverted, appropriating to that object as much of its