

21. A. attend

His Excellency's command to let the House of Assembly know "It is His Excellency's will and pleasure they attend him immediately in this House"—who being come, with their Speaker, His Excellency was pleased to open the Session with the following Speech :

*Mr. President, and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council ;  
Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly ;*

Speech

I have called you together at the earliest period that the state of the Public Business has rendered it convenient for me to do so, or that (as I have reason to believe) the avocations of individual Members would admit of their attendance.

You will, I am sure, deem it a matter of congratulation, that since I last met you, a Treaty has been concluded by Her Majesty with the United States—by which the Boundary Line of the Queen's North American Possessions is definitively settled.

I am happy to be able to state to you that the Fisheries have been more than usually productive during the past season ; while we have abundant reason to be grateful to the Divine Giver of all Good for a plentiful and safely stored Harvest.

As might have been anticipated, from the general depression of Commercial Interests, (a depression, from which, however, Nova Scotia has suffered but little, comparatively with other Countries,) there has been a decrease in the Revenue, but it is gratifying to find, that while all claims on the Provincial Treasury have been punctually discharged hitherto, the resources of the Province are such as (if husbanded with a judicious economy) leave no doubt of our ability to meet such engagements with equal regularity in future.

The first Report of the Commissioner for Indian Affairs is ready for your inspection ; and I hope that an investigation of the facts therein set forth, will make it appear, that the money so generously appropriated to a benevolent purpose has been expended with due discretion ; and that a proportionate benefit is likely to accrue to the oppressed and suffering Race, for whose relief it was designed.

I trust you will, on examination, be convinced, that in every matter of public concern, the conduct of which has been confided to the Executive Government, the interests of the Colony have been vigilantly protected.

It has been my duty, during the recess, to maintain a correspondence with the Secretary of State for the Colonies on several subjects of deep importance. This correspondence, in which the views of Her Majesty's Government on the various topics it embraces are fully developed, shall be communicated to you without delay.

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

The Accounts for the past, as well as the Estimates for the current year, shall be forthwith laid on your Table. I fully rely on your disposition to provide liberally for the Public Service.

*Mr. President, and Honorable Gentleman of the Legislative Council ;  
Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly ;*

The attention of the Government has been directed to the revision of the Law of Debtor and Creditor ; and the co-operation of the Legislature will be invited, with a view to the establishment of a system adapted to ameliorate the condition of the one, and secure the rights of the other.

A plan for regulating, in future, the disposal of Crown Lands, based on the principles propounded in a Despatch from the Secretary of State, communicating the opinion of the Commissioners of Land and Emigration on this question, will be presented for your consideration.

A measure, conceived with a design to extend the privileges of the Constituency of Nova Scotia, and which is calculated to render available to the Province at large, the services of persons well qualified to comprehend its wants and advance its interests, but whom  
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