

my faith in the advantage to be derived from great Public Works of this character. In the Despatches which will be laid before you, you will find certain remarks on the Bills themselves, to which I solicit your attention. It is possible too that some measures may be taken by you for the purpose of encouraging and regulating Immigration in connection with these enterprises.

"You may deem it expedient in your present Session to consider the general management of the Roads throughout the Province. Looking to the large outlay of public money which now takes place in this department, I see great reason to doubt whether the present mode of administering it is the best which can be adopted.

"Your wisdom may possibly devise some amendment in the present Law for regulating the election of Members of the Assembly, and for trying the validity of the Return made by the Sheriff; at any rate it is my duty to bring the subject under your notice.

"The Law Commission appointed in pursuance of the Act of last year have laboured with much diligence and perseverance. I trust you may find even in the present Session an opportunity for legislating on the first Report which they will make. There is no subject which requires to be dealt with more vigorously or more cautiously than that of Law Reform.

"A Bill will be laid before you for securing a Registration of Births, Deaths, and Marriages. Great complaints have been made to me of the want of some such provision, and I shall be happy to see the defect remedied.

"It has pleased Providence again to bless us with abundant crops, and the Commercial situation of the Province is upon the whole satisfactory.

"I believe that the Exhibition which took place this last Autumn at Fredericton was calculated to inspire confidence in our resources, and stimulate the industry of our people.

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

"I congratulate you on the prosperous state of our Provincial Revenue. There has been an improvement in almost every branch of Receipts, and the whole aspect of our Finances promises well for the credit and future progress of New Brunswick. At the same time the liabilities which we are about to incur in promoting the execution of Great Public Works will suggest caution and economy in dealing with our ordinary expenditure.

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

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

"You are well aware of the measures taken by Her Majesty's Government in the last season for the protection of our Fisheries. You have heard also, that Her Majesty's Ministers are anxious to effect such arrangements with the Government of the United States as may conduce to greater freedom in commercial intercourse with our neighbours. The Provincial Government have not been unmindful of the importance of these questions or the interests of our people. The pending state, however, of any negotiations, would render it impossible to afford detailed information, or to legislate with advantage, at the present time, upon this subject.

"Apprehensions have been expressed lest the interests of New Brunswick should be overlooked in carrying out any such arrangements. I am happy in being able to inform