

*Gentlemen of the Legislative Council, and*

*Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,*

ALTHOUGH the time is not yet arrived for me to congratulate you on the re-establishment of Peace between His Majesty's Kingdoms and the countries subject to the domination of the persons exercising the powers of Government in France, yet, I feel a sincere satisfaction on congratulating you on the Security and Protection with which these remote parts of His Majesty's dominions have been blessed amidst the storms that have agitated other countries, and on the glorious and important victories recently obtained by His Majesty's Naval Forces over the fleets of our Enemies by which (although their secret endeavours to sow dissensions among His Majesty's subjects may not be abated) their power to disturb our Repose by open hostility is greatly abridged.

*Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,*

Shortly after the Prorogation of the Provincial Parliament in May last I received His Majesty's Royal Assent to the Bill passed in 1796 entitled " An Act for repealing certain Acts granting Rates and Duties " to His Majesty and for granting new and additional Duties in lieu thereof, and for appropriating the same towards defraying the expences of the Administration of Justice and support of the Civil Government within this Province, and for other purposes therein mentioned ;" But the time limited by Law for declaring the Royal Assent, was unfortunately expired before His Majesty's Pleasure thereon came to my hands : I will therefore recommend to your consideration the expediency of re-enacting it.

I shall direct the Accounts of the Provincial Revenue of the Crown and of the Expenditure of the last year to be laid before you, together with such other matters as shall relate thereto.

*Gentlemen of the Legislative Council, and*

*Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,*

While we contemplate with gratitude the dispensations of Providence in our favor, the security we have hitherto enjoyed in our Persons and Property under the protection of our Mother Country, the friendly disposition