

attend a Council summoned by the Governor General of Canada from the various British North American Colonies, for the purpose of affording assistance to Her Majesty's Government in the negotiation of Commercial Treaties. I have directed the Report of that Gentleman to be laid before you.

" The Government of the United States having announced a resolution to terminate the Treaty existing between that Power and Great Britain, for the reciprocal regulation of Trade, I deemed it right, on the invitation of the Government of Canada, and with the concurrence of that of Nova Scotia, to despatch a Delegate to Washington for the purpose of endeavouring, in concert with Her Majesty's Minister in that Capital, and Delegates from the Sister Provinces, to procure a temporary prolongation of an arrangement which has proved mutually beneficial to both countries, in the hope that time might be thus afforded for negotiations, with a view to a permanent renewal of the Treaty. I regret to inform you, that the efforts of the Delegates have not been attended with success, and that the Treaty will consequently very shortly expire. I do not, however, suppose the discussions on this subject to be finally closed, and I trust that, when revived, they may lead to a satisfactory issue. Meanwhile it is for you to consider whether any revision of the Revenue Laws of this Province may be rendered necessary by the abrogation of this agreement. With a view of ascertaining whether, in this event, new channels may not be opened to our commerce, I have, in concert with the Governors of the other British North American Provinces, despatched a Delegation to the West Indies and certain States of South America. Papers on this subject will be laid before you.

" You will have learned with indignation the existence of a conspiracy, having for its avowed object the dismemberment of the British Empire. Various circumstances would appear to indicate that an attack on some portion of Her Majesty's North American Dominions is contemplated by those engaged in this mad and wicked enterprise. It is difficult to believe that an attempt, so certain to be attended with failure, can be seriously intended. I rejoice, however, in the conviction that but one sentiment of loyalty animates the people of this Province, and that its inhabitants of every race, creed, and station, are alike ready to repel lawless aggression, and to punish unprovoked hostility. I know that I may rely on your hearty concurrence and support in the adoption of the precautionary measures which may be needed to avert so grave a calamity as the occurrence of an armed conflict within our borders.

" You will be gratified to learn that the Act passed by you during the last Session, for the better regulation of the Militia, has worked in a highly satisfactory manner. My attention has been steadily directed to carrying its provisions into effect, and my warmest thanks are due to those who have afforded me zealous and efficient assistance in this respect. The attention of the Imperial Government, and of those of the various Colonial dependencies of the British Crown, have of late been more seriously directed to the organization of this important branch of national defence, and, with your aid, I trust the Militia Force of New Brunswick may ere long be placed in a condition of efficiency.

" The Bill relative to the issue of Treasury Notes, passed by you with a suspending clause, has not yet received Her Majesty's approval. The reasons which have induced Her Majesty to delay Her assent to this measure, will be forthwith communicated to you.

" In compliance with the request contained in an Address from the House of Assembly, two Members of my Executive Council were directed by me