

*May it please your Excellency;*

The House of Assembly, agreeably to your Excellency's command, have proceeded to the choice of a Speaker, and having unanimously elected Samuel George William Archibald, Esquire, His Majesty's Attorney-General, and Member for the County of Colchester, to that Office; and by their direction, I beg leave to present him for your Excellency's approbation.

His Excellency approves of the Speaker

After which, His Excellency was pleased to say, I approve of the Speaker which the House of Assembly have chosen.

Then the Speaker of the Assembly said,

*May it please your Excellency;*

Speaker solicits the usual Privileges

The ready approbation of Your Excellency of the first act of this House in the choice of me as their Speaker, induces me to hope, that their future proceedings shall receive from Your Excellency the same favorable regard.

Being now, by the choice of the House, and the approbation of Your Excellency of that choice, in due form, appointed the Speaker of the Assembly of Nova-Scotia; in the name of the Representatives of His Majesty's Loyal Subjects the People of Nova-Scotia, it becomes my duty humbly to solicit for them their usual rights and privileges; that they may have freedom of Speech in their debates; that they and their servants may be free from arrest; and that when His Majesty's service, and the interests of this Province may require it, that I, as their Speaker, may have free access to your Excellency's person.

To which His Excellency replied—

*Mr. Speaker,*

Privileges granted His Excellency opens the Session with a Speech House of Assembly withdrew His Excellency retired President reports Speech

I most cheerfully grant your request, conformably to ancient usage—the Laws of the Land and the Royal Instructions.

Then His Excellency was pleased to open the Session by a Speech to both Houses.

The House of Assembly having withdrawn, His Excellency was pleased to retire soon after.

The Honorable the President informed the House that he was in possession of a Copy of His Excellency's Speech, which he read, and is as follows:

*Mr. President, and Gentlemen of His Majesty's Council,*

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

Speech

At the opening of this Session of a new Assembly, it affords me great satisfaction to congratulate you on the peace and prosperity which pervade this Province.

Although the last Harvest was not very productive, I trust that no serious evil will be experienced from that circumstance. To some of the newly arrived Settlers in Cape-Breton, who were represented to me as likely to suffer extreme distress, owing to the failure of the Potatoe Crop, I have already felt it my duty to send some assistance, and should these Poor People be found to require further relief, the proofs which you have uniformly given of your humanity, assure me that their wants will be cheerfully supplied.

The past Season, I regret to find, has been rather unfavorable to our Fisheries, but a steady and progressive improvement has taken place in every other branch of our Trade and Commerce.

I have great satisfaction in acquainting you that the Revenue is increasing; the Receipts of the last year were sufficient to meet all the demands upon the Treasury, and every just claim against the Government has, I believe, been discharged.

I feel it my duty, however, to advise a judicious and economical application of our means; and the surest way of accomplishing this is to keep our expenditure within our income.

I continue to receive from the Inspecting Field Officers very satisfactory Reports of the Militia; the regularity and good order of many of the Battalions are deserving of great praise.

Among the numerous matters of local interest which demand your notice, the improvement of our present defective system of appropriating and expending the Road Money seems to me to have a peculiar claim on your attention, and I should be neglectful of my duty, were I not to recommend that subject to your best consideration.

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

I shall direct the Public Accounts to be laid before You, and I trust that you will find that your grants to His Majesty have been faithfully applied.

I shall also direct the Estimate for the present year to be submitted to you, with a full persuasion