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CCDD Mr. CHAIRMAN, LADIES, AND GENTLEMEN,—

In appearing before you on the present occasion, I have first to apologise to you, for the disappointment which, two weeks ago, unavoidable circumstances compelled me to cause you. I assure you, that the accident of an uncommonly sudden change of weather, combined with other impediments, which prevented my fulfilling my engagement at that time, was to me a source of very great regret; and you will readily understand that it must have been more peculiarly so, from the circumstance, that although I have addressed many audiences in various parts of the world, yet I never disappointed an audience before. However, I believe you will perhaps think with me, that the disappointment then involuntarily inflicted on you will be compensated, and my Address to you rendered more agreeable by the postponement; inasmuch as, since that time, I have obtained the permission of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor and other authorities, to lay before you an abstract of my enquiries with regard to the Agricultural capabilities of this Province, as comprised in my written Report. If I had addressed you when first intended, it would have been only on more general topics; topics, perhaps more familiar to you, but less interesting in the discussion than that which I shall now present to your notice; and, therefore, we may be induced to believe, that that disappointment, like many other casual vexations and grievances in life, was really intended for our good.

I have been so much occupied, during the last six weeks, in putting together the results of my observations and enquiries in this Province, in the form of a Report, that I have had no opportunity to prepare any thing special for this evening; but I propose to give you a brief outline of the direction of my enquiries and of the results obtained from them. This I shall do in plain, homespun language, devoid of ornament or imagery, so that you may easily understand the subject; and you will then make allowance for any want of strength or polish, and for the absence of flowers of language and oratory.

In looking at the Agricultural capabilities of any country, it is of the greatest consequence to a person taking a general view of it, to have an idea, before-hand, of what is the Geological structure of that country. In my former address in this place, it will be remembered by those who were present, that I drew the attention of the audience to this point; that a knowledge of the geological structure of a country is of the greatest possible consequence, to enable any one to arrive at anything like general conclusions with regard to the agricultural capabilities of that country. When I tell you, that from an inspection of the geological maps of other countries, countries which I have not personally visited, I am enabled to judge of the agricultural capabilities of those

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countries, and not only to judge of those capabilities as a whole, but also to instruct others as to the kinds of husbandry most suited to the various soils of such countries, you will have an idea of the value of a knowledge of what is called the geological structure of a country; and this knowledge you may obtain by looking at geological maps. If you look at this Geological Map of the Province of New-Brunswick now exhibited before you, (which I have had prepared, to attach to my own Report on this Province,) you will see, that there are various portions of its surface coloured with different colours; and those colours represent the different species of rocks which prevail in the various districts of the Province. Now you all know, that if you dig beneath the surface of the earth at any place, you will come, at a lesser or greater depth, to the solid rock. The solid rock varies in species in various parts of every country, and Geologists have given different names to the various species of rocks, such as sandstone, trap, grey-wacke, limestone, and many others. This system of the various kinds of rocks constitutes what is called "geological formation;" and this geological formation or structure of a country is exhibited in maps by different colours, the various colours representing the various geological formations or species of rocks. The map now before you thus exhibits the geological formations that occur in the Province of New-Brunswick; and I have been anxious to embody in one map all the information hitherto collected as to the geological formation of this Province, by previous investigators as well as by myself. Dr. Gesner has often addressed you from this place on this subject: he was employed for several years at the expense of the Province in making geological explorations of the country, and he published a series of reports of the results of his enquiries, which no doubt contain many valuable facts and observations. But unfortunately, tho' those facts and observations are to a certain extent embodied in this map, yet it is still exceedingly incomplete. I have had all the available observations of Dr. Gesner, as well as my own observations and those of Dr. Robb embodied in this map; and although it is still incomplete, yet it will afford more information on the subject than has ever yet been obtained; and here I cannot help remarking, that a large amount of valuable information on this head is deposited in the Crown Land Office of this Province, and it seems to me surprising, that information for which such large sums have been paid by the Provincial Government, should up to this moment have lain hidden in a Government office.

We have now noticed the fact of the various kinds of rock: the next principle to consider is, that every rock with which we are acquainted, when exposed to the action of the air, gradually