

lishment of direct Steam Communication with the Mother Country. I should view with lively satisfaction any step for the attainment of this object which could be taken consistently with a due regard to Financial considerations.

“ I have received from the Secretary of State an important Despatch relative to the Surplus Civil List Fund. This Despatch will be laid before you.

“ The Law which regulates Parish Schools will shortly expire. Your attention will necessarily be directed to this important subject. The Council of King's College have submitted to me, as the Visitor of that Institution, a Report, of which a copy will be laid before you. I commend this Report to your attentive consideration.

“ I have given effect to the wish of the House of Assembly, that a Commission should be appointed to consider the means by which the successful Culture of the Soil may be best promoted. The Commission is now engaged in making the necessary enquiries on this subject, and I trust that those who are engaged in this important branch of industry may derive permanent advantage from the labours of the Commissioners.

“ During the past year the Staple Article of Export from the Province was depressed in value; while the Potato Crop was seriously injured, and in some districts wholly destroyed, by the blight; and although the Fisheries were at least as productive as usual, both the Commercial and the Agricultural Industry of the Province suffered a temporary check. But the general condition of the People is, I am happy to believe, one of comfort and contentment; and gratefully acknowledging the numerous blessings which have been bestowed upon us, and our dependence on Providence for their continuance, I rely with confidence on your devotion to the Public interests, and I fervently hope that your deliberations may conduce to the honor and permanent welfare of the Province.”

Which being ended, the House of Assembly withdrew, and His Excellency was pleased to retire.

The Honorable the President reported His Excellency's Speech.

An Address in answer to His Excellency's Speech is moved and seconded.

ORDERED, That the same be taken into consideration to-morrow.

The Honorable Mr. Botsford communicated the melancholy intelligence of the death of the Honorable Colonel Hatch, late a Member of this House, who died at his residence in Saint Andrews in August last.

Whereupon it was

RESOLVED, That the Members of this House do wear mourning for one month, in testimony of their respect, and as a mark of their sense of his long public services in the Legislature of this Province.

The Honorable the President acquaints the House, that by a certain Instrument under the Hand and Seal of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, dated the twenty seventh day of January one thousand eight hundred and fifty seven, Commander John James Robinson, R. N., was appointed provisionally a Member of this House, and desired to be admitted.

ORDERED