

Mr. Acting SPEAKER also reported that in reply, His Excellency said :

Mr. SPEAKER—

His Excellency grants Mr. Speaker's prayer for usual privileges.

“ I most cheerfully grant your request.”

Mr. Acting SPEAKER then reported that His Excellency had, in the Council Chamber, been pleased to make a Speech to both Branches of the Legislature, of which, Mr. Speaker said, for greater accuracy, he had obtained a copy, and which he read to the House, as follows :

*Mr. President, and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council :*

Mr. Speaker reports His Excellency's Speech at opening the session.

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

1.—I have been induced to open this session at an earlier period than usual, with a view to bring under your consideration matters of great importance, which I shall presently advert to : but before doing so I avail myself of the earliest opportunity to allude to an event which has occurred since we last met, and which will long be remembered with pride and pleasure in this colony—the visit of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales—he having first set foot, on this side of the Atlantic, on the Island of Newfoundland. The sojourn of that intelligent and most amiable Prince was necessarily short, but long enough to endear him to all classes, he having won the affection of every heart ; and all will join in wishing that God's best blessings may be abundantly showered upon him. We, and the Queen's subjects in her North American Provinces, ought to be deeply thankful to our Gracious Sovereign for sanctioning his visit to these important parts of her dominions in the Western Hemisphere, at an age when early impressions are seldom effaced in after life : and the happy results of such a visit may be felt hereafter, as they are now appreciated, not only by Her Majesty's subjects, but by the people of the neighbouring Republic, whose warm reception of the Heir to the Crown of England clearly manifests their desire that amity and friendship between the two powerful nations of the United Kingdom and the United States of America may long continue to exist.

2.—The first subject of importance which will demand your early attention, is the distress which now prevails, and which, I fear, will much extend during the winter among the people in many of the districts of this colony. That distress may be accounted for from the Seal as well as the Cod Fishery, having proved, I believe, far below an average, while there has been a great failure in the potato crop. The Government, will, of course, lay before you all the information that it has yet acquired on this subject. Advances have already been made in consequence of urgent application on behalf of those who may be called