

His Excellency was pleased to open the Session by the following Speech to both Houses :—

“ Mr. President, and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council,

“ Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,

“ I AM happy in again meeting you in Provincial Parliament, and in tendering to you my cordial co-operation in such measures as may be deemed calculated to promote the prosperity of New Brunswick.

“ I offer you my congratulations upon the state of the Province, in which tranquillity and good order, security of person and property, plenty and contentment, may be said to prevail, to a degree for which we cannot be too thankful,—more especially when we contrast our situation with that of those of the sister Provinces of British America, in which the extraordinary spectacle has again been exhibited of Her Majesty’s peaceful and loyal subjects having to defend in arms their lives, property and institutions, against attacks from volunteer Armies, principally composed of hostile citizens of a friendly Nation.

“ With the Institutions of other States we can have no desire to interfere, nor even to animadvert upon them, so long as our own rights and security are not endangered. The power of controlling the excesses of its population, by enforcing submission to the laws, is one which would seem essential to be possessed by the Government of every well constituted State, and of which the absence might also be regarded as amounting to a virtual dissolution of the social and consequently of the international compact. Entertaining these opinions, I observe, with satisfaction, that the Officers of the General Government of the United States, supported by the approbation of the moderate and respectable of all classes of its citizens, appear to be exerting themselves with energy in their endeavours to demonstrate, that in that Union there does reside the power of controlling the action of its Citizens, and of thereby maintaining its friendly relations with Foreign States.

“ In times like the present, one of the most important objects to which your attention can be directed is the efficiency of the Provincial Militia. To the general tenor of the Militia Laws I have nothing to object,—but they must, I fear, continue inoperative, in many instances, for want of a Stipendiary Officer who would be responsible to the Government for duly mustering the several Battalions and enforcing the fines for non-attendance. By the Act passed last Session you were pleased to confide to me powers, which, if circumstances should arise to render it expedient or necessary to call them into exercise, either for the defence of this Province, or to aid in the suppression of rebellion, or in maintaining the Royal Authority in an adjacent one, would, I am persuaded, aided by the loyalty of the Militia population, be found fully adequate to meet every emergency. As a measure preparatory to such a contingency, I have caused several Volunteer Companies of Militia Artillery to be placed under the superintendence of an experienced Artillery Officer, for the purpose of organization and instruction; and I would suggest that the Commander in Chief be empowered by Law, to form the several Companies of Militia Artillery and those of the ‘Sea Fencibles’ into Battalions at his discretion.

“ Recent events have shewn the great importance of the communications between these Lower Provinces and the Canadas being rendered more practicable, not only for