

which Mr. Speaker said he had, to prevent mistakes, obtained a Copy, which he read to the House, and is as follows :

*Mr. President, and Gentlemen of His Majesty's Council,
Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,*

SINCE I last had the pleasure of addressing you in General Assembly, the Peace of Europe has been established, by a succession of events so wonderful, that we cannot but acknowledge in them the manifest interference of a Superintending Providence. And should our only remaining enemy be inclined to meet the magnanimous disposition evinced by our Parent State, with corresponding sentiments of moderation and justice, we may reasonably hope that the same blessing will shortly be diffused throughout the world. For information upon this point we must, however, await the result of the negotiations carrying on at Ghent ; in full confidence that the persons entrusted by the British Government with that important mission, possess both the talents and firmness requisite to procure peace on such terms, as, in the estimation of Britons, shall be considered just and honorable. But, should any insurmountable obstacles present themselves to the attainment of this desirable object, there can be little doubt that the whole force and resources of Great-Britain will be employed, to put an end to a war, unprovoked in its commencement, and in its continuance strongly manifesting the arrogance, injustice and obstinacy, of an implacable Enemy. You cannot have been insensible to the many blessings this favored Province has enjoyed, during the long and arduous contest in which our Mother Country has been engaged for the freedom of Europe ; nor can you have viewed the miseries inflicted on Upper Canada, by the system of desolation pursued there by the Enemy, without gratefully acknowledging your own exemption from such evils.

I am happy to inform you, that no events have occurred since we last met, to render it necessary for me to call out the Militia, excepting a few small Detachments for the defence of some of the most exposed parts of the coast, in their own immediate neighbourhood. And it is with pleasure I add, that our Commerce has flourished, and the Provincial Revenue increased beyond my most sanguine expectations. Whilst I rejoice with you in our present prosperity, I am not unmindful of the possible occurrence of adverse circumstances, which may call upon the people of this Province to defend those blessings they have hitherto enjoyed in security ; and I feel the most perfect confidence that, in obeying this call, they will prove themselves worthy of the favor of their Sovereign, and deserving of that Constitution which experience has taught them to consider as the best Inheritance of their Ancestors.

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

The Public Accounts of the last Year, with the Estimate for the Civil Establishment and other Services required for the present Year, will be laid before you by the proper Officers. From the satisfactory experience I have hitherto had of
your