

Mr. Partelow moved for leave to bring in a Bill to amend the Laws to provide for the greater safety of Passengers on board Steam Boats.

Leave granted.

Mr. Speaker then further reported, that when in attendance on His Excellency in the Council Chamber, His Excellency had been pleased to make a Speech to both Houses, and that he (Mr. Speaker) had, to prevent mistakes, procured a copy thereof, which he read to the House and is as followeth :—

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

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

"HAVING called you together at the earliest period that has been practicable since the termination of the Elections, which were unavoidably deferred to a late season of the year. I meet you with an impression that, as we are assembled to deliberate on the affairs of the Province, under circumstances of more than ordinary interest, you will be animated by that public spirit which is required to enable us to fulfil the expectations of the Country.

"You will participate in the gratification which Her Majesty's Subjects in general have felt in the recent and brilliant successes which have signalled the operations of Her Naval and Military Forces in the East, and which have offered so prominent an occasion for National gratitude and felicitation in the prospects which those successes have opened to British enterprise.

"I congratulate you also on the ratification by Her Majesty of a Treaty with the United States, for the settlement of the Boundary between those States and the British Provinces; an event by which a protracted dispute, calculated to have disturbed the peace of both Countries, has been happily terminated, and which is likely to prove advantageous to Commerce.

"The abundant Harvest of the last season with which Providence has blessed the labours of the people, as well in the United Kingdom as in these Colonies, has demanded the expression of our thankfulness. The relief it has afforded, under the depression to which the Country has been subject, has drawn attention to the Agricultural resources of the Province. I have taken advantage of this disposition, by encouraging the formation of extensive Settlements on the Crown Lands, under regulations calculated to prevent the evils attendant on the desultory occupation of them. I recommend to you that Legislative provision should be made to check the illegal occupation of the Crown Lands, and also of the Indian Reserves, and to secure the Revenue derivable from them.

"A revision of the Election Laws will also become necessary in order to protect the Constitutional rights of the Freeholders, and for the security of the public peace at Elections, which are likely to be of more frequent occurrence under the Act of the last Session.

"As the Laws for the support of the Parochial Schools in the Province will shortly expire, I have prosecuted such further enquiries into their condition as will be a guide to you in applying a remedy to the defects of the system. From its importance to the welfare of the rising generation, I recommend the subject to your early attention.

"It is unnecessary that I should recapitulate to you the measures, which have appeared to me to be called for, to improve, on English principles, the Institutions of the Province, and which have so much engaged the attention of the Country: but there is one subject which it is incumbent on me at this time to recommend to your particular notice;—I allude to the timely adoption of such a system of Finance, as will be calculated to restore confidence in the integrity of the Province and retrieve the Public Credit.

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

"Since the close of the last Session my attention has been unremittingly given to the means of alleviating, so far as it has been practicable, the embarrassments arising from the failure of the Revenue, and the depreciation of the Provincial Credit. The Accounts for the last year, which have been fully audited, will be laid before you, from which you will observe that extraordinary means will be required to relieve the Public Creditor. In proposing to raise such moderate Duties as would not press unduly upon