

"The Law Commission appointed in pursuance of the Act of last year have laboured with much diligence and perseverance. I trust you may find even in the present Session an opportunity for legislating on the first Report which they will make. There is no subject which requires to be dealt with more vigorously or more cautiously than that of Law Reform.

"A Bill will be laid before you for securing a Registration of Births, Deaths, and Marriages. Great complaints have been made to me of the want of some such provision, and I shall be happy to see the defect remedied.

"It has pleased Providence again to bless us with abundant crops, and the Commercial situation of the Province is upon the whole satisfactory.

"I believe that the Exhibition which took place this last Autumn at Fredericton was calculated to inspire confidence in our resources, and stimulate the industry of our people.

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

"I congratulate you on the prosperous state of our Provincial Revenue. There has been an improvement in almost every branch of Receipts, and the whole aspect of our Finances promises well for the credit and future progress of New Brunswick. At the same time the liabilities which we are about to incur in promoting the execution of Great Public Works will suggest caution and economy in dealing with our ordinary expenditure.

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

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

"You are well aware of the measures taken by Her Majesty's Government in the last season for the protection of our Fisheries. You have heard also, that Her Majesty's Ministers are anxious to effect such arrangements with the Government of the United States as may conduce to greater freedom in commercial intercourse with our neighbours. The Provincial Government have not been unmindful of the importance of these questions or the interests of our people. The pending state, however, of any negotiations, would render it impossible to afford detailed information, or to legislate with advantage, at the present time, upon this subject.

"Apprehensions have been expressed lest the interests of New Brunswick should be overlooked in carrying out any such arrangements. I am happy in being able to inform you on the best authority, that the prosperity of the North American Provinces is one of the main objects which Her Majesty the Queen has in view, and that in any adjustment of the Fishery Question, the interests of New Brunswick will be carefully considered."

Mr. Thomson then proposed the Address to His Excellency in answer to the Speech, which he read in his place; and the same being seconded by Mr. Gordon, it was handed in to the Chair, where it was again read, and is as follows:—

To His Excellency Sir EDMUND WALKER HEAD, Baronet, Lieutenant Governor and Commander in Chief of the Province of New Brunswick, &c. &c. &c.

The Humble Address of the House of Assembly.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

1. We, the faithful Commons of New Brunswick, thank Your Excellency for your Speech at the opening of the present Session.

2. Cordially responding to the opinion expressed by Your Excellency as to the advantage likely to accrue to the Province from the introduction of great Public Works, we rejoice to learn that the Railway Acts passed at the last Session of the Legislature have received the Royal assent; and we will give our best consideration to any Despatches Your Excellency may lay before us relating thereto, as also to such measures as will tend to encourage Immigration in connection therewith.

3. A subject so vitally connected with the internal improvement of the Country as the management of the Public Roads shall not fail to command our attention, convinced as we are that the present system is susceptible of amendment.