

your Excellency for the gracious Speech with which your Excellency has been pleased to open the present Session of the Legislature.

2.—In common with Your Excellency, we regard with much satisfaction the beneficial results which have emanated during the year from the Reciprocity Treaty with the United States: and it is gratifying to find that, while its liberal and expansive Policy has opened up new Markets both of consumption and transit, into which our staples are admitted at their commercial value, at the same time that policy has been mainly instrumental in sustaining and even enhancing that value, at a period when the unusually abundant supply of such Staples would, under ordinary circumstances, have probably produced different results.

3.—We regard this enlightened policy with the more favor, from the fact that the industry of the fishing population has not been, nor at any time has there been any apprehension entertained by us that it would be, interfered with by the exercise of the privilege afforded by the Treaty to American Citizens, to take fish upon our Coast; while we deplore that we are asked to ratify concessions lately made by the British Government to the French nation, which are calculated most materially to interfere with the privileges of our fishermen—the alleged equivalents offered being of no value—thus placing our people, who are solely sustained by the energy of private enterprise, in unequal competition with those of a nation whose pursuits are stimulated by large bounties from the Treasury of France.

4.—We heartily concur with your Excellency in duly appreciating the vast advantages conferred upon this community in its commercial, political, and social relations, by the recent completion of the Sub-marine connexion of this Island with the American continent by Electric Telegraph, and we trust that these great and important advantages may be soon extended, through the same marvellous agency, from that continent to the continent of Europe.

5.—We thank your Excellency for your prompt attention in transmitting to Her Majesty's Secretary of State, the representations of this House, made in its last session, in reference to direct Steam Communication with the mother Country, and for your Excellency's promise to lay before us the correspondence received on this subject.

6.—It is gratifying to know that this important project is about to be undertaken upon a more extensive scale than the one initiated last summer,