

"It can no longer be doubted that the Finances of the Country are involved in difficulties, which have been already felt to an extent which, it is to be apprehended, may have caused alarm and inconvenience to those who have been accustomed to place implicit confidence in the Provincial engagements—difficulties, which if not speedily met by some well digested measures of retrenchment, supported by a well ordered economy in future, must soon lead to serious embarrassment, and blight those fair prospects of internal improvement, and Provincial prosperity, which, with a just reliance on Divine Goodness, we may have hoped to see realized.

"I invite your early attention, therefore, to a subject, the investigation of which, cannot, with safety, be delayed; and I recommend that your financial system should undergo such a revision, as will best enable you to provide satisfactorily for the gradual liquidation of the Public Debt, and to restrict the future annual expenditure, within such limits as the actual state of the Revenue, with the existing claims upon it, may require.

"I rely entirely on your judgment, discrimination and public spirit, for the selection of the most proper objects of retrenchment, being fully persuaded, that it will be your study and endeavour, to adopt such measures, as will least affect the general welfare, or the public service; and that you will steadily support, with a just and comprehensive knowledge of the wants and resources of the Country, those Institutions and Establishments, which its future destinies, as an integral portion of the British Empire, gradually advancing in value and importance, may demand.

"I feel a perfect assurance that these great objects may yet be accomplished, without involving the necessity of any great public sacrifice, or of any increase to the burthens of the people.

"I have observed with satisfaction, that the Trade of the Province appears of late to have been prosecuted with increased activity and spirit; and that Commercial enterprise has opened for itself new outlets for the employment of our Shipping, which, it is hoped, will be productive of permanent advantage.

"The late unfavourable Season, with which it pleased Providence to visit us, has been severely felt in many parts of the Province: but I can see no reason to doubt that the Agriculture of the Country is progressively improving, and gradually assuming that character of importance in public estimation, which, at no distant period, will develop the natural excellencies of a soil, capable of supporting in competence and comfort, a vast increase of population.

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

"The Treasurer's accounts, with the documents which usually accompany them, shall be laid before you.

"It is quite essential to the proper maintenance of the public credit, that your Grants should be so regulated as to insure their prompt payment at the Treasury, as they become due:—with reference to this subject I shall have to communicate to you by Message, some commands which I have recently received from His Majesty's Government, relative to the future issue of Government Paper or Securities.

"The almost entire failure of the crops last year in Madawaska, had reduced a District, usually blessed with happiness and plenty, to a state of great misery and want, bordering upon famine, and I could not, therefore, hesitate to order immediate supplies of food to be provided for the unfortunate sufferers:—The documents connected with this outlay, I will order to be laid before you, in the confident expectation, that of all the claims that may be submitted to you, those of suffering humanity will be the first attended to.

"It is now, I believe, generally felt and acknowledged, that a contraband trade, to an extent most hurtful to the Provincial Revenue, has for some time past been, almost openly, carried on in the Bay of Fundy:—an alarming instance of the audacity with which this illegal practice is prosecuted, has been very recently reported to me, and