

22nd May, 1855.

HIS EXCELLENCY CHARLES HENRY DARLING, ESQUIRE, *Governor.*

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Majesty's loyal subjects, the People of Newfoundland, humbly to demand, that they may have freedom of speech in their debates—that they and their Servants may be free from arrest—and that whenever Her Majesty's Service and the interests of the Colony may require it, I, as their Speaker, may have free access to your Excellency's person.

The President of the Council then said,—

His Excellency the Administrator of the Government commands me to assure you, that he extends to you, in the most ample manner, all the privileges which have at any time been enjoyed by your predecessors in office, as Speaker of the Assembly.

The Governor extends to the Speaker all the privileges enjoyed by his predecessors in office.

His Excellency was then pleased to open the present Session by a gracious Speech to both Houses, of which the following is a copy :—

*Mr. President, and Honorable Gentlemen of the Council :*

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

It greatly enhances the satisfaction with which I meet you in General Assembly convened, thus early after my assumption of the Government of this ancient and loyal Colony, that I am in a position to announce to you my intention to take immediate measures for establishing its Civil Administration upon that system, which now for some time past in successful operation in Her Majesty's other North American Possessions, is well known and understood under the designation of Responsible or Parliamentary Government.

His Excellency's Speech.

The conditions which were considered by Her Majesty's Government indispensably preliminary to the introduction of that system, having been satisfactorily fulfilled on the part of the Colony, by the enactment of laws providing for the enlarged Representation of the people, and granting Retiring Allowances to the present holders of Executive Offices, who have seats in the Council, it remains only that the necessary measures should be taken under her Majesty's authority, for enlarging the Council in its Legislative capacity, and for constituting an Executive Council distinct and separate from it.

Delay in the completion of the instrument whereby the Royal