

His Excellency's
speech to both
Houses—

“ GENTLEMEN of the COUNCIL and

“ GENTLEMEN of the ASSEMBLY,

“ **T**HE circumstances which had rendered it necessary
“ for His MAJESTY to take part in the war with
“ France are universally known, and the eventual importance
“ of this war to the most essential interests of humanity and
“ even to the existence of civil society must be felt and ac-
“ knowledged by every one whose judgment has not been
“ perverted by views of imaginary interest or blinded by the con-
“ tagious frenzy that is insensible to all the horrors of anarchy
“ and confusion.

“ Happily for His MAJESTY's American subjects, this al-
“arming mischief has not yet extended to this continent:
“ You cannot however but perceive the expediency of our
“ making every possible exertion to put this province into a
“ condition of defence; prepared for the various emergencies
“ that may arise in the progress of the war.

“ I therefore earnestly recommend to your consideration
“ the preparing and passing of a bill for the better regulation
“ of our Militia. For although the voluntary exertions of the
“ inhabitants, particularly in the city and county of *Saint*
“ *John*, where, on a late occasion, such as to merit the high-
“ est commendation; yet you are sensible that, in our Legisla-
“ tive capacity, it becomes our duty to aid and confirm the
“ zeal and courage of a Free People by suitable sanctions of
“ legal provisions; nor can you be less sensible that the subsist-
“ ing law respecting the Militia, is in many respects defective
“ and inadequate to the purposes of real security and active
“ defence.

“ GENTLEMEN of the ASSEMBLY,

“ The several measures recommended to you in the course
“ of the last session and such provisions as at the close of that
“ session were left unfinished, will, I doubt not become the
“ objects of your present attention; and I have the satisfaction
“ to feel assured of your zeal on this and on every occasion
“ for the real advancement of the public welfare.

“ Such papers and accounts as are necessary for your fur-
“ther deliberations shall be laid before you.

“ GENTLEMEN of the COUNCIL, and

“ GENTLEMEN of the ASSEMBLY,

“ The present state of affairs exhibits in a new and more