

Then His Excellency was pleased to open the Session by the following Speech to both Houses :—

*“ Mr. President, and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council,*

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

**“** **A**S the situation of the Province did not require, after the elections, that I should anticipate the ordinary period for the meeting of the Legislature, I have called you together at this time, with a confident reliance on your disposition to apply yourselves to the business of this first Session in a spirit of unanimity which will attest your zeal for the Public Service.

“ I congratulate you on the abundance of the late Harvest, which has relieved the pressure on the Agricultural Classes occasioned by the failure of the Potato Crop in the preceding year; and while we deeply sympathize with the continued sufferings and privations of so many of our fellow subjects of the United Kingdom, we are bound to acknowledge with thankfulness that the People of this Province have, with few exceptions, been spared from a recurrence of this afflicting visitation.

“ In reflecting on the measures to which it becomes my duty to invite your attention, there are none which impress me with a deeper sense of their importance, than those which have for their object to improve and extend the means of Education for the People. The state of the Parish Schools, and the system under which they have been conducted, was the subject of an elaborate inquiry in 1844, and I need not remind you, that unless timely provision be made for their efficient regulation, training, and inspection, there are those who are growing up around us to whom the loss must soon become wholly irretrievable.

“ From the salutary effects which have elsewhere attended the introduction of an improved system in the management of Prisons, I recommend this subject to your especial notice. The enforcement of discipline, and of effective secondary punishments, under statutory rules, have been found to be conducive, not only to the reformation of offenders, but to the prevention of crime, and essential to the safety of society where the Criminal Laws have been ameliorated.

“ The recent improvements in the Laws of the United Kingdom which provide for the settlement and relief of the Poor, suggest for consideration, how far the Provincial Acts may require in this particular to be amended, to meet the altered circumstances of society. From the large increase in the number of Immigrants annually arriving, especially of the poorer classes, some amendment appears to be also necessary in the regulations applicable to their relief.

“ Representations having been made to me on behalf of the Indian population, and of persons residing on their Lands, of the ill consequences of delay in the adjustment of their respective claims, I hope that measures will be taken to facilitate such a settlement of them as will conduce alike to the satisfaction of the claimants, and to the credit and advantage of the Province.

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

“ I have the satisfaction to inform you, that from the prosperous state of Commerce, the Revenue in the past year has been amply sustained.

“ I have given directions that the Public Accounts should be laid before you.