

government, which will be submitted for your grave consideration, unembarrassed by any premature action of the executive.

The correspondence will be laid before you without delay, and I shall rejoice if a measure mutually satisfactory to her majesty's government and to the British North American provinces can be matured.

*Mr. Speaker and gentlemen of the house of assembly :*

The accounts for the past and the estimates for the current year shall be submitted without delay.

*Mr. President and honorable gentlemen of the legislative council :*

*Mr. Speaker and gentlemen of the house of assembly :*

It becomes us to acknowledge the bounties of Providence liberally bestowed during the past year. An abundant harvest has restored cheerfulness and activity to the rural districts. A steadily increasing revenue indicates the expansion of our commerce and enlarged consumption by the great body of the people of the comforts and luxuries of life.

The partial failure of the shore fishery has, I regret to learn, severely tried a large class of hardy and industrious men. To what extent this has been occasioned or aggravated by the depredations committed by foreigners on our rights of fishery, I trust that you may be able to determine. You will be gratified to hear that the governments of Canada and New Brunswick have promised their co-operation in the repression of these intrusions, and you may securely calculate on my approval of any well devised measure that will give to an interest so important effectual protection. A report on this subject, prepared by the commissioners appointed under the law of a former session, will be laid before you.

The act for the encouragement of education will expire on the first of May. Your attention will be invited to a measure, combining with the clauses of the old law, which experience has tested, such improvements as the superintendent of education is prepared to commend. That officer's report will be laid before you, and I trust you will see the propriety of placing our common schools on a more efficient footing by establishing a normal institution in which teachers may be trained.

That Nova Scotia may reap the full advantages of her insular position, it is very desirable that further encouragement should be given for the establishment of efficient lines of steam communication to connect important points on the Gulf and Atlantic shores with each other, and with surrounding states and colonies.

The proceedings and practice of the common law courts have been carefully revised by commissioners appointed last year. Their report will be laid before you, and I confidently hope may prepare the way for greater simplicity in the forms of law, and a more speedy and certain distribution of justice.

The practicability of combining the equity with the supreme court is now under consideration, and I hope to be able to submit the commissioners' report upon that subject before the close of the session.

Mr. Archibald, pursuant to leave given, presented a bill, to abolish imprisonment for debt upon mesne process, in certain cases ; and the same was read a first time, and ordered to be read a second time.

Imprisonment for debt bill.

Mr. Doyle then proposed the following address in answer to the speech of his excellency the lieutenant-governor, and moved that the same do pass, viz :

Address in answer to speech moved.