

S P E E C H :—

His Excellency's Speech.

Mr. President, and Honorable Gentlemen of the Council ;

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

You are again assembled together for the transaction of the public business of the colony, and it affords me much pleasure in meeting you on the occasion.

It is my duty to communicate to you the melancholy fact of the death of His Majesty the King of Hanover, Uncle to our Gracious Queen.

I have received from Her Majesty's Secretary of State answers to the several Addresses passed in the last Session to Her Majesty ; and among the papers which I shall cause to be laid before you at the earliest opportunity is the reply of Her Majesty's Government to the prayer of the House of Assembly for the concession of Responsible Government to this Island.

The Post Office has been taken into the hands of the Local Government, and the increased facilities for correspondence thereby, throughout the several districts of the Island, must prove of great utility and benefit to the community generally.

The great improvement in the Revenue during the past year is a subject for congratulation, and you will observe that the increase is much greater than that at which it was estimated in your last Session.

In the Despatches about to be laid before you, you will observe that Her Most Gracious Majesty has been advised to assent to the Act passed in the last Session for issuing Treasury Notes and for reducing the Public Debt of the Colony.

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly ;

The Financial Statement and Estimates shall be laid before you, and I rely with confidence on your making the necessary provision for the efficient conduct of the Government.

Mr. President, and Honorable Gentlemen of the Council ;

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly ;

I now leave you to your legislative duties, in the discharge of which you will always find me a ready and active supporter ; and I trust that at the termination of those functions, the Island of Newfoundland will have reason to be grateful to us for the time and labour which we, during the period of four years, have so unremittingly bestowed in our endeavours for the promotion of the welfare and happiness of all classes of the colony.