

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

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

Our Gracious Sovereign having been pleased to appoint me to the Government of this Island, I have much satisfaction in meeting you in your Legislative capacity at this early period after my arrival, and I avail myself of the first opportunity of communicating to you my earnest desire to administer the Government upon those just and impartial principles, which, whilst they will give me a claim to public confidence, will enable me, with your assistance, to contribute to the happiness and prosperity of this interesting and thriving Colony.

It devolves upon me now to submit for your consideration several matters of much importance to the present and future welfare of the Colony. Among the most pressing of these, is the state of the Island Currency, a wholesome reform of which is urgently required. To assist your deliberations in effecting this desirable object, I shall direct to be laid before you the views entertained by Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, both as to the cause of the present state of the Currency and its proposed remedy. To these views I must claim your serious and earnest attention.

The future management of the Post Office in the British North American Provinces will also occupy a prominent position in your deliberations, Her Majesty's Post Master General being prepared to surrender to the Provincial Authorities the controul of this department, so soon as by concert between the several Legislatures, arrangements shall be matured for securing the advantages of an efficient and uniform system—the several communications upon this important question, together with the able Report of the Commissioners appointed by the Provinces of Canada, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, shall be laid before you.

The unfortunate sickness and distress which prevailed among the Emigrants from Ireland last year, has induced Her Majesty's Government to propose to the several Provincial Legislatures the enactment of a law to afford additional security against the recurrence of similar misfortunes. The views of Her Majesty's Government as communicated to the Right Honorable the Earl of Elgin, will be submitted for your information and guidance.

A revision of the Laws regulating Elections, is also a matter well deserving your attention, and I would recommend for your consideration, whether a law upon the same principle as that which was lately passed in the Province of Nova Scotia, and which is also in force in the Province of New Brunswick, might not be adopted with advantage in this Colony.

I will communicate to you, by Message, such other matters, affecting the general interests of the Island, as it may be deemed necessary to bring under your consideration during the Session.

It will be gratifying to you to learn the prosperous state of the Revenue for the past year. Although burdened with an unforeseen and extraordinary expenditure, exceeding £3000, in providing Seed Grain for the necessitous settlers at the commencement of the season, and in supporting the sick and destitute Emigrants, it will still be found to exhibit a considerable surplus, beyond the charges of the year. Encouraging as this