

WEDNESDAY, 5th February, 1817.

His Honor the President came to the Council Chamber, and commanded the attendance of the House of Assembly, who attended accordingly, and presented William Botsford, Esquire, as their Speaker elect, who was approved of by the President.

His Honor then opened the Session by a Speech to both Houses.

The House of Assembly having retired, and His Honor having withdrawn, the Chief Justice reported a copy of the President's Speech, which was read as follows:—

*“ Gentlemen of the Council, and
“ Gentlemen of the Assembly,*

HAVING been, by the departure of Major General Smyth, unexpectedly called to the temporary administration of this Government, I shall, in discharging the important duty which has thus devolved upon me, suggest for your deliberation such subjects only as the public interests seem immediately to require. The principal of these after the revenue, and the ordinary exigencies of the public service, is a continuation of the system, begun at the last Session, for improving the means of communication between the different parts of the Province, with such alterations and amendments as experience may dictate, so as to give the fullest effect to a measure, not only of general utility and convenience, but which must greatly contribute to increase the wealth and prosperity of the Province. The encouragement also of Agriculture, which is the surest source of permanent benefit to every country, ought not to be forgotten, and, by the aid of bounties from the public Treasury, judiciously bestowed, this important object may be materially promoted, and, by exciting among the people a spirit of emulation in those exertions of steady industry and habits of economy, which are so essential to their own welfare and success, contribute most effectually to the real strength and importance of the Province.

“ Gentlemen of the Assembly,

“ The Treasurer's accounts, and such other papers as may be necessary for your information, shall be laid before you. By these you will perceive, that although the Revenue has been sufficiently productive, yet the delay of payment of the duties into the Treasury has been such as to preclude the issuing of many of the sums appropriated at the last Session, and thus to prevent the liberality of the Legislature from having its due effect: for this inconvenience your wisdom and experience will, I have no doubt, provide a proper remedy.

*“ Gentlemen of the Council, and
“ Gentlemen of the Assembly,*

“ Having been an inhabitant of the Province of New-Brunswick from its first formation, I cannot but feel very solicitous for its welfare, and if, during the short period,

as