

After which, a Message was delivered from His Excellency by the Usher of the Black Rod, commanding the attendance of the Members in the Council Chamber.

Message from His Excellency the Governor.

Accordingly.

Mr. Speaker Elect, with the House, went up to attend His Excellency in the Council Chamber, where Mr. Speaker Elect, was presented to His Excellency by Mr. Hoyles, Member for the District of Fortune Bay.

House attend his Excellency.

After which the President of the Legislative Council, addressing Mr. Speaker Elect, said.

Mr. BENNETT,

I am commanded by His Excellency the Governor to inform you, that His Excellency approves of the choice which the House of Assembly have made of you to be their Speaker.

Choice of Speaker approved of.

The House being returned, and Mr. Speaker having taken the Chair,

Mr. Speaker reported that the House had been in the Council Chamber, where His Excellency the Governor, had been pleased to approve of the choice the House had made of him to be their Speaker, and that he, Mr. Speaker, had spoken to the following effect :

Speaker reports.

May it please your Excellency,

The customary privileges of the Commons of Newfoundland having been already confirmed to the Members of the House of Assembly by your Excellency in their first Session, on their behalf, I have nothing to solicit. For myself, I shall indulge the hope, that the same disposition which has induced your Excellency to approve of the choice which the House have made of me to be their Speaker, will lead your Excellency to put the same favorable construction upon my conduct in discharging the duties of this important office.

Mr. Speaker also reported, that the President of the Legislative Council, by command of His Excellency, said

Mr. SPEAKER,

I am directed by his Excellency to assure you, that he will extend to you the same indulgence that was granted to your Predecessor in office.

After which, Mr. Speaker said His Excellency was pleased to make a Speech, of which Mr. Speaker said he had, to prevent mistakes, obtained a copy which he read to the House, as follows :

*Mr. President, and Gentlemen of His Majesty's Council,
Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,*

In calling you together to enable you to proceed with those measures for the advantage of the Colony which various circumstances interrupted at your last meeting, I much regret it is not in my power to offer you my congratulations on the success of your fisheries, nor on any considerable amelioration in the condition of the people.

Speech of His Excellency the Governor.

From every information I can obtain, the toils of the Fisherman have only in certain districts been rewarded by an adequate return ; and, in general, the season has not equalled his reasonable expectations ; and the Fishery of the Labrador, on which the livelihood of many depends, has approached to an entire failure.

It is no less painful to me to state that the bounty which Government so liberally extended, last spring, to the necessitous by the distribution of seed Potatoes, has, in consequence of the seed proving unfit for production, but very partially accomplished the object intended.

This two-fold visitation falling on those already great sufferers, has been severely felt ;—although I am happy to add, that only one occasion