

The house being returned and Mr. Speaker having taken the chair,

Mr. Speaker reported that the House had attended his Excellency in the Council Chamber, where his Excellency had been pleased to approve of the choice the House had made of him to be their Speaker; and that he had thereupon addressed his Excellency to the following effect:—

Speaker reports

*“ May it please your Excellency :*

*“ Your Excellency’s ready approval of the choice with which I have been honored by the House, having constituted me, in due form, the Speaker of the House of Assembly, it has now become my duty, in the name of the representatives of Her Majesty’s loyal subjects the people of this Province, respectfully to demand all their accustomed rights and privileges—that they may have freedom of speech in their debates—that they may be free from arrest during their attendance on parliament, and that I, as their Speaker, may have free access to your Excellency’s person.*

Usual privileges demanded.

Mr. Speaker also reported that his Excellency in reply said,

*Mr. Speaker,*

*“ I most cheerfully grant your request.”*

Privileges granted.

Mr. Speaker then said,

*“ Gentlemen,*

*“ Having deferred making my acknowledgments to the House for the honor done me in my election as Speaker, it now becomes my duty to tender my most grateful thanks for the high and distinguished honor conferred upon me. After thirteen years’ servitude as one of the people’s representatives, I feel that I cannot but be somewhat conversant with the important and responsible duties that attach to the Speaker’s office; to discharge all these to your entire satisfaction I can hardly expect, but I most faithfully assure you my best energies shall be exerted to maintain the dignity and uphold the privileges of the House. In the management of the public business of the country my steady aim shall be to press forward with regularity and dispatch, and in so doing I shall study to act with the strictest impartiality in keeping the order of the House. I shall expect your aid, and hopefully trust that I shall receive your united support in maintaining and enforcing the rules and regulations which have been passed for our guidance and direction. Again, gentlemen, allow me to tender to you my earnest acknowledgments for the high and distinguished honor you have this day conferred upon me.*

Speaker makes acknowledgments.

Mr. Speaker then reported that his Excellency had in the Council Chamber, been pleased to make a Speech to both Houses of the Provincial Parliament, of which Mr. Speaker said he had for greater accuracy, obtained a copy, which he read to the House as follows:—

Speech of Administrator reported.

*Mr. President and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council :*

*Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly :*

1°. It affords me great pleasure to meet you in Parliament, where, I feel assured, your exertions will be unceasing to maintain the honor and advance the interests of this highly favored Province.

*Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly :*

2°. The Public Accounts will be submitted for your inspection without delay.

3°. The Estimates for the ensuing year will be prepared with the utmost regard to economy, consistent with due provision for the public necessities.

4°. You will be glad to find that our Exports during the past year have very much exceeded those of 1862; and that although a material reduction was made in the *ad valorem* duties, the revenue of 1863 largely exceeds that of the preceding or any former year, leaving a considerable surplus in the Treasury after meeting the demands of the public service.