

Then the Speaker of the Assembly said—

“ May it please Your Excellency,

“ Your Excellency having been pleased to approve of the choice which the Assembly have made in electing me to be their Speaker, it now becomes my duty, on their behalf, and in the name of the Assembly, to claim and demand that they have all their ancient and accustomed rights and privileges, particularly freedom of speech—freedom from arrest—access to Your Excellency at such times as they may think the public service requires it—and that the most favourable construction be put upon all their proceedings. On my own behalf, I have to request that any error of mine may not be imputed to the House of Assembly.”

Then the President of this House said—

“ Mr. Speaker,

“ His Excellency hath the utmost confidence in the loyalty and attachment of this House of Assembly to Her Majesty's Person and Government, and in the wisdom, temper and prudence which will accompany all their proceedings; and he doth most readily and willingly grant and allow them all their privileges in as full and ample a manner as they have at any time heretofore been granted and allowed.

“ With respect to yourself, Sir, though His Excellency is sensible that you do not stand in need of such assurance, His Excellency will ever put the most favourable construction on your words and actions.”

Then His Excellency was pleased to open the Session by the following Speech to both Houses :—

“ Mr. President, and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council,

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

“ It is with great satisfaction that I now for the first time meet you.

“ Our common feelings of loyal devotion to Her Majesty's Person and Rule, and the sincere desire which we alike entertain to promote the welfare of the People of this part of Her Majesty's Dominions, are sure guarantees for the maintenance of that harmony between us, which is essential to the public interest.

“ I have deemed it necessary to summon you for the dispatch of business at an unusual period of the year; but I am confident that in the performance of public duties you do not regard personal convenience.

“ I commend to your consideration the Treaty which has recently been concluded between Her Majesty and the Government of the United States of America.

“ A copy of this Treaty, and of the Act passed by Congress in connection with it, will be laid before you.

“ By the terms of the Treaty, the consent of each of the Legislatures of the British North American Provinces is specially required, before its provisions can have full operation.

“ You will, in common with the rest of Her Majesty's subjects, rejoice in the assurance afforded by the Treaty for an uninterrupted continuance of the amicable relations which
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