

The *Speaker* then reported that the House had attended His HONOR the PRESIDENT in the Council Chamber, and that he was pleased to make the following Speech to both Houses, a copy of which he read in his place, and is as follows:—

“ *Gentlemen of the Council, and*

“ *Gentlemen of the Assembly,*

“ In addition to the ordinary provisions for the public service, which at this time require your meeting in General Assembly, I have now again to recommend to your most serious consideration the importance of making such arrangements as may be requisite for our defence against the hostility with which we are threatened.

“ If our neighbours did but know their own true interest, it is indeed obvious that instead of assuming from time to time, a menacing aspect, they would long since have made a common cause with Great-Britain as the only remaining bulwark against the progress of that military despotism which has already desolated the greatest part of Europe, and continues to threaten the subversion of every independent State within the reach either of open invasion or treacherous delusion. But experience proves that nations as well as individuals, may be misled to their own ruin by the united influence of prejudice and passion. When therefore we see these combined against us, we have nothing further to ask, than how may we most effectually prepare for our security. By due preparations for resolute defence, we may contribute to prevent that hostility, which otherwise our supineness might invite. But if not, to be at times so prepared as not to be taken by surprise, especially in these eventful days, is the first duty of every people possessing the happy constitution which we inherit. In this view of our present situation, I cannot but anticipate your best efforts not only to give every legal aid in your power for the more perfect regulation of our Militia, but also to provide; to the extent of your ability, for defraying a part of the expence that may be incurred in the defence of this Province, while the enormous weight of the national expence presses so heavily upon the mother Country. By such a mark of zeal and public spirit, we may justify our confidence in that support, on which in all events we must rely.

“ His MAJESTY’S Order in Council giving the Royal Assent and Approbation to the Act, passed during the last Session in addition to the Law for regulating Elections of Representatives in General Assembly in this Province, has been transmitted to me and shall be laid before you.

“ *Gentlemen of the Assembly,*

“ A statement of the public accounts, with such other documents as may be requisite for your information shall be laid before you. You will see that, in the improvements made on the Road from Fredericton to Saint John, an expence of about *sixty pounds* has been incurred, beyond the amount appropriated for that service, for which I doubt not your readiness to make provision.

“ *Gentlemen of the Council, and*

“ *Gentlemen of the Assembly,*

“ While we have cause to lament the continuance of that war of ambition and usurpation, which has desolated so many Countries, I have the satisfaction to congratulate with you on the splendid achievements, which also continue to add fresh lustre to His MAJESTY’S arms, and to sustain the national character in every part of the world.”

On Motion of Captain *Agnew*, Resolved, that an Address be presented to His HONOR the PRESIDENT, in answer to his Speech. Ordered, that

Captain