

FREDERICTON, FEB. 13, 1827.

COUNCIL CHAMBER, FEB. 8, 1827.

This being the day appointed for the Meeting of the Legislature, His Excellency came to the Council Chamber at 2 o'clock, and opened the Session with the following Speech:

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

I HAVE great satisfaction in keeping in existence to the completion of its Constitutional period, a Legislature whose efforts have been zealously, wisely and harmoniously devoted to the welfare, in the deliberations to which I have already called you ; and I open this, the last Session which the Constitution will admit of this present Assembly, with entire confidence that, at its close, I shall have again to exercise a pleasing duty in giving my concurrence to measures conceived in the spirit I so cordially greet, and calculated, as your former proceedings have eminently been, to advance the Public Interests.

With that good affection to the Parent State which has ever been known to animate the People of New-Brunswick, you will, I am well persuaded, deeply deplore the distress which has pervaded the Commercial and Manufacturing Districts of the Mother Countries within the last Twelve Months : and whilst you commiserate the sufferings which have ensued, and pay just tribute to the exemplary patience with which they have been borne, you cannot fail to revere and admire the unbounded munificence and liberality of our Most Gracious Sovereign, and numerous classes of your fellow subjects at home, (in whose beneficence, this Province, in its yet recent calamity, has so largely participated,) in alleviating the distresses which have since fallen on our Parent Land.

With a shock so severe as this, the Commercial affairs of the Colony, as well as the feelings of a loyal and dutiful Population, could not but deeply sympathize. But the crisis has reacted upon this Province with particular force, from the inordinate extent, and rate, at which some of her enterprizes have been carried on, and from other disadvantageous circumstances resulting from those speculations which were of an improvident character.

Whilst I sincerely feel for those individuals who may thus have been brought into difficulty, it is quite consistent with the view I have ever taken of what constitute the real, solid interests of the Province, to look, without doubt or apprehension, to the ultimate effects of those corrections which, it was distinct to me, would unavoidably apply themselves to a branch of business under such undue excitement ; and which, perhaps, was proceeding to break with complicated severity, had the crisis not been accelerated by the sudden stagnations at home.

I console my solicitude for the Public welfare, then, with well-grounded assurances that the reductions which late events enforce in the extent and terms of that business, will powerfully support what I have invariably stated to you and to the Country ; and that those pursuits, when brought within our own inherent means of execution ; conducted with a judicious observance of those practical admonitions which may be gathered from passing events ; and adjusted to a proper degree of keeping with, and not paralyzing, the other great branches of our well-being, may, altogether, be made to establish a condition of industry, and a healthful state of Trade, which may be pursued with security and reasonable profit, and by which the real, substantial, general interests of the country may best be promoted.

The depression in commercial affairs which has so generally prevailed, and other causes which will be explained, have rendered the Revenue less productive than might have been expected. But I am happy to acquaint you, that it is only when compared with the unprecedented amount of the former year that this difference is very material ; and that this diminution arises chiefly from a remission of duties on some articles of importation. The state of the Provincial Finance is, upon the whole, such as to afford grounds for much congratulation, when we consider the very unpropitious character of

the period which they embrace ; and I have further to congratulate you on the encouraging prospects, for extending the Trade and promoting the Fisheries of the Province, which present themselves from some late regulations in our inter-colonial Trade.

The operations of the Parliamentary Act, granting the privilege of trading with His Majesty's Colonial Possessions, to such Foreign Nations as should place the Commerce and Navigation of Great Britain, and her Possessions abroad, upon the footing of the most favored nations, was postponed beyond the period stated in that enactment, for the purpose of affording Foreign Nations ample time to consider whether they would conform to the conditions contained in the British Acts.

That interval having long passed, without producing the adoption of measures necessary to place the Trade and Commerce of Great Britain with the United States, on the tendered terms of reciprocity, His Majesty's Government, though resorting with great reluctance to any measure by which the freedom of commerce with Foreign Countries might be restricted, could no longer delay enforcing the provisions of the British Acts ; and an Order in Council has accordingly been issued, closing the Ports of all our West India Possessions, and the Island of Newfoundland, against the shipping of the United States, but continuing to them the privilege of trading in their own vessels with the Ports of His Majesty's Possessions on the Continent of North America.

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

I shall direct the Treasurer's Accounts to be laid before you ; and I am happy to acquaint you, that, notwithstanding the unfavourable circumstances of the past year, the state of the Treasury is such as to enable you to make the usual provision for the ordinary services of the Province ; and likewise to provide for other important objects to which your liberality has already been extended.

Mr. President, and Gentlemen of His Majesty's Council ;

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

I did not fail to transmit to His Majesty's Secretary of State, to be laid before His Majesty, your Loyal and dutiful joint Address, on the attempts which had been recently made by certain American Land Agents, to disturb the Possession of His Majesty, and the jurisdiction of this Province, in certain tracts of the country. His Majesty, with that gracious attention and regard to the rights and interests of His North American Dominions, for which they have so much reason to be grateful, received your Address most graciously, and directed that important document to be transmitted to His Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs for further consideration.

Together with explanations given in reply to the representations made by His Majesty's Minister Plenipotentiary, against those encroachments, very satisfactory assurances have been conveyed to His Majesty's Government, that it is the earnest wish of the Government of the United States, to reciprocate the conciliatory disposition and procedure observed on the part of the British Government ; and that the American Secretary of State had been directed by the President to inculcate on the Governments of the adjoining States, the observance of a like course of conciliation and forbearance ; and to be careful to do no act which might change the state of the question, as it existed when the Treaty of Ghent was executed. The communication further states, that respectful regard would be paid to the observances thus inculcated, and that no steps are in contemplation which can in any degree tend to produce further excitement.

Reviewing the past year with all the devout sentiments and grateful feelings which are most due, when we carry that retrospect into the awful occurrences of the preceding period, and reflect upon the interpositions of Divine Mercy which we then experienced ; considering, too, the profound state of suffering which has existed at home, the people of New-Brunswick have much reason to be thankful. The traces of the dreadful conflagration are rapidly disappearing ; and the sturdy industry of our people, quickened and supported by the means which have been so generally contributed to their relief, and which your liberality has considerably augmented, have, in general, placed improved establishments on the sites of those which had been consumed ; a season particularly auspicious has