

FREDERICTON, FEB. 19, 1828.

COUNCIL CHAMBER, FEB. 14.

*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,*

IT affords me great pleasure to meet you in General Assembly, after the people of this Province have had the recent opportunity of exercising their constitutional franchise in the election of Members to represent them in the Colonial Legislature; and I have no doubt that I shall continue to experience, in your deliberations, that spirit of loyalty to our beloved Sovereign, zeal for the public interests, and wisdom in promoting them, with which I have heretofore had so much reason to congratulate myself during my Administration of the Government of this Province.

I AM happy to have it in my power to say, that you commence your labours with every indication of an improving state of public affairs. The Commerce, Navigation and Manufactures of the Mother Country, are recovering, gradually and steadily, from the depression under which they were suffering when I last spoke from this place. This distinct improvement has not perhaps yet reached those branches of trade with which this Colony is more immediately connected, but there can be no doubt that those concerns which so severely sympathized with the distresses of the Parent, will in time substantially participate in the health and vigour which we have the happiness to see re-actuating the great Commercial fountain upon which we so much depend.

WHILE I thus congratulate you on the general aspects of those external affairs from which a reasonable expectation may be entertained of returning prosperity to the commercial pursuits of New-Brunswick, I may confidently refer to recent experience to repeat my earnest recommendation that the Country be cautious never again to bend its force, so exclusively, upon enterprises which have been proved to be altogether precarious in their natures, and in which overaction has produced the most disastrous effects.

It has ever been my ardent desire to see our internal industry directed to pursuits of a steady character, and permanent advantage, and I have the highest degree of satisfaction in acquainting you that there are already apparent, many cheering indications that progress is making in this sure and solid course of improvement, with prospects of fair promise, which should engage us all in our several stations, to continue the exertions that will yet be required to accomplish the great purposes we have in view. The effect of these exertions will, I trust, be, to conduct and retain the several branches of the general industry, in such wholesome channels, as may cause them to act advantageously upon each other, to the substantial and permanent benefit of the whole.

The measures for regulating the Colonial Trade, which His Majesty's Government appear to have definitively adopted, afford much reason for encouragement, and certainly of advantage, in a more spirited cultivation of all the natural resources of these Provinces. The result of this system of trade will be, to establish an increasing and constant current of intercourse amongst all the King's Colonies, to supply the wants of each, with the fruits of the others industry, thus inciting all to increase the production of whatever they are naturally adapted to afford; promoting British interests alone; multiplying relations, and consolidating ties, which will be felt to unite these integral parts of the British Empire, more intimately with each other; and continue to attach them firmly to their august and powerful Parent.

I HAVE great satisfaction in acquainting you that notwithstanding the derangements of trade which have prevailed during the year which has just closed, the Revenue collected within that period, has considerably exceeded that of the pre-

ceding year; and that our financial resources are substantially sound, and may be considered to be in a steady course of improvement.

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

I SHALL direct the Treasurer's Accounts to be laid before you; and I rely upon your making provision for the ordinary Services of the Province, and for other objects of public interest which have heretofore received such liberal and salutary encouragement from the Legislature.

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

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

I DO not feel it necessary on the present occasion, to enter so much into detail as I have formerly done, in my recommendations of the several measures which I consider to be intimately and indispensably connected with the well being of this Province; and in explication of those views, the result of a careful and faithful investigation of the public affairs, actual circumstances, and real interests of the Country, which I have uniformly pursued with so deep an interest.—Of these the great pursuits of Agriculture and the Fisheries will not fail to receive your continued protection and support. Upon these the Province must ultimately rely, as the main pillars of its prosperity. Under such a conviction it is highly pleasing to observe the general and spirited attention which, in all parts of the Country, is now bestowed on the concerns of the Farmer; and the judicious measures adopted by the Provincial Agricultural and Emigrant Society, for the introduction of Stock of the most improved kinds, and the corresponding exertions of the Sub-Societies for the improvement of our rural economy generally, will, I am sure, be attended with highly beneficial consequences which your approbation will encourage, and your continued liberality ensure.—In this concern for the improvement of our internal economy, there is no object of such immediate importance, as that of encouraging the further cultivation, and preparation for use, of those species of grain whose hardy nature, and nutritive as well as economical qualities, are found to be so well suited to the climate and present circumstances of this Province. Large sums, I must repeat, are sent in Specie to purchase our bread from a foreign grower; and, as on a former occasion, I appeal to your wisdom and your patriotism,—to the real interests and the public spirit of the Country, for zealous co-operation in prosecuting measures and exertions necessary to relieve the Province from this most serious difficulty. [The debilitating effects of this constant drain on the very vitals of the Country, manifest in the present state of its circulation, are now severely and generally felt; and although this evil was not so distinct in times of great commercial activity, and apparent prosperity, it should ever be kept in mind, that so long as articles of this indispensable necessity are deficient within ourselves, a great corresponding abstraction of the intrinsically valuable part of the circulating medium, must continue to distress and embarrass the Country, especially in times like these, when it is necessarily more dependent on its own internal transactions and resources.] This also serves to prevent the engaging in, or pursuing, enterprises which might otherwise be carried on with advantage; whilst even in periods of the greatest activity in that branch of trade in which New-Brunswick is more particularly concerned, such a defect in Agricultural condition, must detract, by so much, from that solid advantage which the Province might be reaping from that Trade. It is my intention to bring this subject before the Agricultural Societies, with a recommendation that their attention, and portions of their funds, be devoted to inculcate and stimulate those habits and measures, by which only the cause of so much evil can be substantially removed; but I consider it proper first to lay the matter before the Legislature, by whose liberality these Societies have been enabled to exercise so powerful and beneficial an influence over the Agricultural concerns of the Province; thus to afford you an opportunity of considering whether this is not a measure of such importance, and the present a seasonable time for urging it, as should induce you to grant some stimulus in the shape of a bounty, to act directly upon the desired object.—Such an encouragement, coming from