

Mr Kinnear thought the speech should be unanimously considered as calm, conciliating and gratifying. It contained some highly important facts, to which the House had long and anxiously looked forward.—The hon. member then contrasted the same view taken in the speech of the state of the finances, with that relative to the progress of trade and commerce; and observed that if the Lieutenant Governor had taken a gloomy view of the matter, the hon. member who opened the debate had taken a glowing one; and therefore the House might come to a conclusion to look at it at all events in a cheerful manner.—The pecuniary embarrassments of the country came from themselves alone. The speech drew the attention of the House to "a well-ordered economy." If there had been a well ordered economy in former years, the House would now have received no such lesson in that speech; nor would there now exist such distress among the people from the nonpayment of their warrants, and the infamous system of "shaving" them, which so much prevailed. He (Mr K.) hoped, that for the future the House would accept such a system of economy; and, as far as possible, bring down what is extravagant to what is reasonable; and that if they did with regard to themselves, he hoped they would be met in another quarter with the same disposition to economy. If they all paid a due attention to economy, and an absence of extravagance in salaries, then all would go hand in hand, to join in the recommendations contained in that part of the speech. The hon. member then, at some length, corroborated the statements respecting the commercial embarrassments in St. John, and the great inconvenience occasioned by the numbering of warrants, not only among Merchants, but also by Schoolmasters, Commissioners of Roads, &c. Still, he would not cast the odium of this transaction on the Executive. All were liable to error: and if the House committed an error in judgment, the Executive might as well fulfil their reproaches on them for such mistake, as the house hurl its invectives on the Executive for their error. The House gave the money to the King: the King, by his representative, has the sole right of issuing the warrants, and directing the mode of payment, at his discretion, according to the state of the funds in the Treasurer's hands. Suppose the numbering system had been adopted; and the Executive, knowing that a certain sum was in the Treasury, had selected what warrants he pleased for payment first. There was nothing to prevent such a course: a discretion must be left somewhere, and it was therefore, perhaps, better, that it should be exercised by the advice of several, than by the sole authority of one. The house, then, in such case, should not captiously object to that which, altho' erroneous, and inconvenient in practice, yet, under all the circumstances, might be considered as the exercise of a sound discretion.—The hon. member then proceeded to state as causes of the present public embarrassment, the demand for a particular kind of coin at the Custom House, the lessening of discounts at the Bank of New Brunswick, &c.; strenuously insisted on the necessity of general retrenchment; expressed his desire for a remedy against the demoralising pursuit of smuggling; and urged upon the Committee the duty and advantages of carefully providing for the proper education of youth; in doing which, the hon. member adverted to the fact, that a Bill for the regulation of Parish Schools, which included exactly such a salutary provision as that recommended in His Excellency's Speech, actually passed the House last session, but was lost in another quarter, and he therefore suggested, that in the reply of the house to his Excellency, that fact should be fairly stated.

Mr Speaker, in a long and eloquent Speech, (of which our time and space allow us to give only a compendium,) animadverted on the various topics mentioned in his Excellency's speech. The hon. Speaker particularly insisted on the fact, that pecuniary embarrassments do exist in the country to a great degree, and that Treasury warrants can only be disposed of at a very great discount; and he contended that the only way to remedy the evil, was, for the house to lessen its appropriations. He also commented on the statements made by Mr Partelow, and expressed his apprehensions, that the hon. member was more sanguine in his ideas respecting the state of the Finances, than their actual condition would warrant. The hon. Speaker observed, that the payments into the Treasury from the various Deputy Treasurers, had of late been very promptly made, and that it was to be expected, that in a very short time all that was due from them would soon be remitted; and then took occasion to enquire, how it would happen, that warrants were at so great a discount, and that monied men would not invest their capital in such securities, if the Finances were in so favourable a state as had been represented?—He considered the embarrassment to be much greater than Mr Partelow apprehended, and attributed it chiefly to the improvident appropriations of the House in former Sessions. He contended that the present distress had the effect of grievously depressing the poor, and putting money into the pockets of the rich; because the former were compelled by possibility to sell their warrants at any price they could obtain, while the latter were enabled to purchase them at an enormous profit; and he insisted, that the proper remedy for these evils was, for the House to retrench their expenditure and to increase their Revenue, by a small duty on British Merchandise.—The hon. Speaker was inclined to think that the numbering of warrants had nothing to do with the present embarrassment; if there had been sufficient funds in the Treasury, and no such improper and lavish appropriations as had been made, there would have been no necessity for numbering them. The Executive must have been aware of the want of money in the Treasury, and had therefore exercised a discretion in regulating the payment of warrants: that discretion was vested in the Executive, and he (Mr Speaker,) thought the present system much better than the old one. Under the old system of issuing warrants from time to time,

the persons entitled to them never had any certainty of the time when they should obtain them; but were frequently obliged to send or travel to Fredericton in vain, because the Council had not authorised their issue; so that those who resided or had friends at Head Quarters, would generally obtain their warrants first, even for the current year, while those at a distance could not even obtain those which were due in preceding years.—The house had empowered him (Mr Speaker,) to mention the subject to his Excellency, but had suggested no plan for its improvement: on conferring with his Excellency on the matter, it was agreed that it would be far better to issue the whole of the warrants at once, so that all might have an equal chance of negotiating them; and he (Mr Speaker,) had no doubt, that if a plan to regulate the order of their payment, according to the funds in the Treasury, had been suggested by the house, his Excellency would cheerfully have complied with it.—The hon. Speaker suggested the propriety of omitting for the future, in the Appropriation Bills, the clause directing the warrants to be issued "by and with the advice of His Majesty's Council;" he thought it would be better that nothing should be left to be done, after the law was enacted, but for the Executive to carry into effect the intention of the law, according to his own discretion and authority, which would render any such regulation unnecessary. The hon. Speaker concluded with some observations relative to the coin required in payment at the Custom House, and the frequent difficulty, of getting Dollars, because the Bank often found it more advantageous to import other coins, which were also a legal tender.

Mr Weldon coincided in the views of those who attributed the present embarrassment to the improvident appropriations of the house; contended that the unsaleableness of warrants evinced a want of capital and circulating medium in the country; that the numbering of warrants was, under the circumstances, the necessary result of the discretion vested in the Executive; that retrenchment was the only remedy for the present distress; that part of the public debt had already been discharged; and that the hon. member for Gloucester was totally in error in supposing that any warrants for grants before the adoption of the numbering system, were still unpaid. The hon. member also briefly alluded to various other parts of the speech, and particularly coincided in Mr. Chandler's views respecting the establishment of a Custom House Officer at the head of the Bay of Fundy. He congratulated the house on the probability of a favourable settlement of the Casual Revenue question; strongly deprecated the present system of licensing parish schoolmasters, alluded to the Bill passed last year for its amendment, and lost elsewhere, and expressed his wishes for the improvement of that system; and in conclusion, alluded to the good feeling evinced by his Excellency in the concluding paragraph of his speech, and urged upon the house the necessity of meeting it with cordiality and reciprocal good will.

Mr. Wyer considered the speech on the whole as highly gratifying. The hon. member advocated the absolute necessity of retrenchment, beginning with the Members' pay; including reductions in the Militia expense, the College grants, &c.; and extending to other appropriations generally. He then proceeded to animadvert strongly on the subject of contraband trade, which he considered to have greatly increased since the abolition of the Revenue Cutter, and he attributed the great decrease of the Revenue at St. Andrews, from £8000 to £3000, chiefly to this cause. The hon. member stated, that a Merchant in Eastport lately told him that he had sold 10,000 barrels of flour within the last year, and that he had no doubt most of it went up the Bay and paid no duty. He attributed the pecuniary embarrassments principally to over-trading, the want of a sufficiency of circulating medium, and the payment of dollars at the Custom House; expressed his satisfaction with various parts of the speech, such as that relative to the Casual Revenue, and concluded by urging the necessity of retrenchment and of efforts to liquidate the public debt.

Mr. Partelow observed, in reply to the several members, that the sum of £5000, last borrowed by the Province, had been repaid, and then moved, that that part of his Excellency's speech, relative to the state of the finances, be referred to a Committee, to report thereon to the house; which was resolved accordingly.

The Committee then reported progress, and obtained leave to sit again; after which, a Finance Committee was appointed; and another Committee, to report on that part of the speech relative to schools.

## FROM THE JOURNAL OF FEBRUARY 7.

It being the time appointed by His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor for receiving the Address of the House, in answer to his Excellency's Speech at the opening of the Session; the House waited upon His

Excellency, and presented the following Address:—

"To His Excellency Major General SIR ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL, Baronet, Knight, Grand Cross of the Most Honorable Military Order of the Bath, Lieutenant-Governor, and Commander in Chief of the Province of New-Brunswick, &c. &c. &c."

"THE HUMBLE ADDRESS OF THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.—

"May it please Your Excellency,

"We the Representatives of His Majesty's Loyal Subjects the People of New Brunswick, thank Your Excellency for the Speech you have been pleased to make at the opening of the Session, and assure Your Excellency that the present meeting of the Legislature exhibits no ordinary degree of interest in the Province.

"We regret that the Finances of the Country are involved in difficulty. We shall not fail to use our utmost exertions to remove the temporary embarrassments which at present prevails; and by a well ordered economy, with a due regard to the Public exigencies, endeavour, in future, to guard against a similar occurrence.

"It affords much satisfaction that the Trade of the Province is still in a flourishing condition, and that the Commercial part of the Community, with their usual enterprize have availed themselves of the new outlets afforded for the employment of our Shipping, which we trust will be productive of permanent advantage.

"We lament that the late unfavorable season has been severely felt in various parts of the Province; it however gives us much pleasure that the Agriculture of the Country is steadily improving.

"We thank your Excellency for directing the Treasurer's Accounts to be laid before us.

"We are fully aware of the necessity of maintaining the Public credit, so that the provincial engagements may meet with prompt payment at the Treasury. The instructions from His Majesty's Government with reference to this subject, which Your Excellency has been pleased to state shall be communicated to us, shall have our careful deliberation.

"We deeply deplore the destitute condition of the Madawaska Settlement, occasioned by the almost total failure of the Crops last season; and when the documents connected with this outlay, for the relief of the unfortunate sufferers of that District are laid before us, they shall not fail to have our most serious consideration.

"We have always had reason to suppose that a contraband Trade, to a limited extent has been carried on in the Bay of Fundy; but are surprised to learn that it is of such alarming magnitude, as to be most hurtful to the Provincial Revenue. We assure Your Excellency that if any well digested system can be devised, to prevent so baneful and demoralizing a Trade, we should most readily adopt it.

"We rejoice to learn that His Majesty's Government have instructed Your Excellency to lay before us the terms upon which his Majesty may be advised to place the Casual and Territorial Revenues under the control of the Legislature. We shall wait with deep anxiety the communication from Your Excellency of this very important Document, which we sincerely hope will exhibit a further proof of the disposition, which we are quite satisfied exists on the part of our Most Gracious Sovereign, to accede to our wishes on this highly important subject.

"The appointment of properly qualified Schoolmasters, in the various Parishes of the Province, we are sensible is one of the most efficient means which can be devised, to promote a liberal and moral Education among the people; and we endeavored at the last Session to aid Your Excellency in this most important and interesting part of our duty. Your Excellency may, however, believe we shall continue to make exertions for the accomplishment of this most desirable object.

"We shall, with a spirit which should ever distinguish the House of Assembly of New Brunswick, enter upon the deliberation of the various weighty matters presented by Your Excellency to our consideration, being fully convinced that as We, with Your Excellency, have but one object in view—the Public Good—that will best be promoted by such a spirit, and by such enlarged and comprehensive views as will preserve to His Most Gracious Majesty the affections of His loyal and faithful subjects in this Province, and also ensure to them the blessings of good order, prosperity and peace."

Being returned, Mr Speaker reported, that His Excellency had been pleased to make the following reply thereto:—

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

"I return you my thanks for this Address; and I receive with great satisfaction your assurances, that you will give that attention to the objects recommended to your consideration, which their importance merits."