

entitled "An Act to raise by loan a sum of money for the rebuilding and improvement of the town of St. John's."

Reserved for the signification of Her Majesty's pleasure—
A Bill to amend the Law relating to the appointment of Sheriffs.

The Speaker then addressed His Excellency in these words:—

May it please Your Excellency,

The General Assembly are now about to terminate their fifth and last session. On this occasion they cannot but be impressed with the recollection, that as their investiture of Legislative authority commenced with Your Excellency's presence, so its withdrawal is to be also an act of Your Excellency, as the Representative of our Most Gracious Sovereign, on the eve of Your Excellency's departure from this Colony. In performing my last official act as Speaker of this House, in presenting to Your Excellency a Bill to continue the Act for the encouragement of the Whale Fishery, I humbly beg leave to say that I only echo the sentiments of every member of this Body, both collectively and individually, in assuring Your Excellency that they look back with feelings of unmingled pleasure to their official connection with Your Excellency, during the whole period of the existence of the amalgamated Legislature, and of regret at Your Excellency's separation from them.

After which His Excellency delivered the following

SPEECH :

Mr. Speaker, Hon. Gentlemen and Gentlemen,

In releasing you from further attendance upon your legislative labours, it is my pleasing duty again to tender to you, in the name of the Sovereign, my cordial acknowledgments of the assiduity which you have bestowed upon the great objects for which you were specially convened, and my congratulations upon the completion of a measure which I gratify myself in believing to be fraught with more important and beneficial consequences, as regards the future interests and prosperity of your commercial capital, than any which has ever engaged the attention of its local Legislature at any period since a constitutional form of Government was conferred upon Newfoundland.

With the gratifying feelings which this reflection is calculated to inspire, you will return to your constituencies, and your ordinary avocations; while I, on my part, shall not cease to cherish the recollection that as your united and most earnest endeavours have been unceasingly used to mitigate the severity and to repair the injuries inflicted by the great calamity with which it has pleased the Almighty Disposer of Events to visit this city, it has also pleased Him thus far to direct and prosper those endeavours.

In connection with this subject it cannot fail to be interesting to you to be informed that the total amount of property, real and personal, destroyed by the late fire, has been estimated by the Commissioners appointed for the purpose of obtaining that information (in their report just received) at the sum of £888,356.

Towards the paternal government of Her Majesty, and for the benevolent acts and intentions of neighbouring colonies, we are bound to record our most grateful acknowledgments, which I therefore feel a pride in doing as the last act of that form of constitution which, marked throughout its proceedings by the best understanding and feelings, has been the instrument of conferring many advantages on this colony; among the chiefest of which I cannot but regard the having, as I frequently trust, laid the foundation of future legislative harmony.

I have further to thank you for having, in compliance with my suggestions, abstained from diverting your attention during the session, from the great object for which you were specially convened, by engaging in the consideration of other subjects.

You will, therefore, I trust, receive from me, with your wonted indulgence, the intimation that with respect to the measure which constitutes the only exception (and in which I find no suspending clause,) I have felt myself restrained by the very important constitutional principles which are therein involved, and to which, under the present hurried circumstances, I have not had the means or leisure to give that degree of attention which they demanded, to reserve that Bill for further consideration, and for communication with Her Majesty's Government.

Mr. Speaker, Honorable Gentlemen and Gentlemen,

It has too often been my pleasing duty to advert in my communications with you to the harmonious and satisfactory course of your legislative proceedings, to render it necessary for me again to refer to that subject; but I deem this, the moment of my departure from your shores, a fitting occasion upon which to place upon public record an opinion which a residence of five years among them has led me to form of the character of the great body of Her Majesty's loyal subjects in Newfoundland: not only has it not been found necessary to resort to the extreme rigour of the law in any instance during that period; but I feel that I should do less than justice to them if I were to withhold the declaration, that it has never been my fortune to be connected with a community in which there has been less of crime committed, or of disposition to turbulence, or opposition to the law, evinced than in this island.

Again I invoke the Divine blessing and protection on the inhabitants and interests of this ancient, loyal, and most important Colony.

The Honorable the Attorney General then announced the prorogation of the House to the 25th instant.

From the Newfoundland Morning Post.

We give below the Address adopted at the Public Meeting on Wednesday last, and presented yesterday, together with the reply of His Excellency thereto.

To His Excellency Major General Sir JOHN HARVEY, Knight Commander of the Most Honorable Military Order of the Bath, Knight Commander of the Royal Hanoverian Guelphic Order, Governor and Commander in Chief in and over the Island of Newfoundland and its Dependencies, &c. &c.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

We, the Clergy, Magistrates, Merchants, and other Inhabitants of St. John's, beg leave to approach your Excellency with sentiments of sincere respect and esteem, to express our feelings of deep regret at the termination of your Excellency's administration of the Public affairs of this Colony, and to testify our sense of the benefits conferred upon this community during the period of Your Excellency's government.

Called to preside over the Councils of the Colony at a time when a new and untried form of Constitution was deemed necessary. Your Excellency's task was one of no ordinary magnitude, and one which required the exercise of the greatest judgment. Within the short period however during which Your Excellency conducted the government of the Colony, we have had the satisfaction of witnessing the establishment throughout the Island of a liberal system of academical and general education—the encouragement and extension of Agriculture beyond the expectations of its most sanguine advocates—the accomplishment of communication by Steam vessels with England and the neighbouring colonies; and the extensive construction and improvement of Public Works, especially the more important ones of Roads and Bridges. These and many other blessings have been in no small degree attributable to the personal interest taken by your Excellency in the public welfare, and to the unwearied assiduity with which you have at all times devoted yourself to its promotion, aided by the valuable experience of your Excellency in previous Colonial Governments—whilst at the same time it is to the wise and liberal policy by which your Excellency has ever been guided, that we have now the happiness of attributing the feelings of general harmony which are now diffused throughout this community.

On the occasion of the recent calamitous event, which reduced our once flourishing town to ashes—the prompt and humane exertions of your Excellency to alleviate the distresses of the sufferers—and the successful endeavours of your Excellency to awaken the sympathies of the mother country and the surrounding colonies in our behalf, have been such as to demand the expression of our deepest gratitude.

Neither can we omit this opportunity of recording the grateful sense we entertain of the kind and affable deportment which your Excellency has invariably displayed towards all who have had personal intercourse with your Excellency, and of thanking your Excellency for the fostering patronage as well as liberal support which you have uniformly bestowed upon all our public and private charitable institutions. We beg to be permitted at the same time respectfully to tender to the Honorable Lady Harvey our liveliest sentiments of esteem and regard, and to assure her, that whilst her amiable and most estimable qualities of heart and mind have endeared her to all who have enjoyed the pleasure of her acquaintance,—she will never cease to be remembered in the prayers of the widow and the orphan, whose wants and distresses have at all times occupied her thoughts, and to the relief of whose sufferings, she has been so munificent a contributor. Whilst however we regret the loss which this colony will suffer by the severance of your Excellency's connection with it, and more particularly at this important crisis, we beg leave at the same time to offer to your Excellency our hearty congratulations on the mark of Royal favour which our gracious Queen has been pleased to bestow upon you, in appointing you to the Government of the neighbouring Province of Nova Scotia; and in conclusion we beg to assure your Excellency that in whatever portion of Her Majesty's Dominions your high duties may call you, in leaving our shores you carry with you the cordial esteem of all classes of this community.

(Signed) B. G. GARRETT, *Chairman.*

On behalf of the Meeting.

My Lord, Reverend and Honorable Gentlemen, and Gentlemen:—

If not the highest, yet assuredly, one of the most gratifying Testimonials which a Public man can receive, is the publicly expressed approbation of those of his fellow subjects over whom he has presided (for a period sufficient to confer its due value on the sentiment) in the endearing (so suffer me to call it) relation of the Representative of a beneficent and Paternal Sovereign:—that reward it has pleased you this day to confer upon me, and although it is not the first, by many, of a similar character to which it has been my grateful duty to respond, for myself and for her who has been the beloved confidant of my bosom, the solacer of all my cares for a period fast advancing to half a century, and to whose worth you have been pleased to pay so affecting a tribute—yet are there circumstances which connect themselves with this particular Address which confer a value upon it in our estimation, which I should ill attempt to describe:—We arrived in this community entire strangers to you all—we have passed five years of our lives among you—a period which at our age constitutes a large portion of our waning existence—we have lived in the interchange of mutual kind feelings—we