

more complete system of inter-communication between them, and a proposal will be submitted to you for carrying into effect these arrangements.

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

" The Fiscal Accounts of the past Year will be laid before you. These Accounts will, I hope, be found to exhibit with clearness and simplicity both the Receipts and the Expenditure of the Year, and I congratulate you on the improved condition of the Finances of the Province. Estimates also of the Revenue and of the Expenditure for the current Year have been prepared by the Government, and will be submitted to you.

*" Mr. President, and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council,*

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

" In accordance with the desire expressed by the House of Assembly, the Government has during the recess been engaged in the consideration of the means whereby a healthy stream of Immigration hither may be best promoted. The correspondence and other documents explanatory of the progress which has hitherto been made in maturing a scheme for this purpose, will be laid before you ; and I do not doubt that these documents will receive from you that calm and careful consideration to which they are entitled, as well from the importance as from the complicated character of the subject to which they relate.

" In other Colonies Commerce has been extended, and an impetus given both to Emigration and to the investment of Capital from the United Kingdom, by the establishment of direct Steam Communication with the Mother Country. I should view with lively satisfaction any step for the attainment of this object which could be taken consistently with a due regard to Financial considerations.

" I have received from the Secretary of State an important Despatch relative to the Surplus Civil List Fund. This Despatch will be laid before you.

" The Law which regulates Parish Schools will shortly expire. Your attention will necessarily be directed to this important subject. The Council of King's College have submitted to me, as the Visitor of that Institution, a Report, of which a copy will be laid before you. I commend this Report to your attentive consideration.

" I have given effect to the wish of the House of Assembly, that a Commission should be appointed to consider the means by which the successful Culture of the Soil may be best promoted. The Commission is now engaged in making the necessary enquiries on this subject, and I trust that those who are engaged in this important branch of industry may derive permanent advantage from the labours of the Commissioners.

" During the past year the Staple Article of Export from the Province was depressed in value, while the Potato Crop was seriously injured, and in some districts wholly destroyed, by the blight ; and although the Fisheries were at least as productive as usual, both the Commercial and the Agricultural Industry of the Province suffered a temporary check. But the general condition of the People is, I am happy to believe, one of comfort and contentment ; and gratefully acknowledging the numerous blessings which have been bestowed upon us, and our dependence on Providence for their continuance, I rely with confidence on your devotion to the Public interests, and I fervently hope that your deliberations may conduce to the honor and permanent welfare of the Province."