

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

“ I have given directions that the Accounts of the Receipts and of the Expenditure of the past year, should be laid before you.

“ You will observe with satisfaction that, placing out of consideration the proceeds of the Provincial Debentures and the Expenditure for Railway Works, the Revenue of the year exhibits an excess over the Expenditure during the same period.

“ Estimates also of the Revenue and Expenditure of the current year will be submitted to you.

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

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

“ The adoption in Canada and in Nova Scotia of the decimal system of computation, will probably induce you to consider whether this system can be introduced with advantage in this Province.

“ I have, in accordance with the desire expressed to me last Session by the House of Assembly, appointed Commissioners to prepare a measure for facilitating settlements between Debtors and Creditors. The Report of the Commissioners has not as yet been laid before me, but its presentation will not, I am informed, be long deferred, and, when it is received, I shall submit it for your consideration.

“ It has been usual to take a Census of the Population at decennial periods. I recommend you to consider what Legislative enactments may be requisite to facilitate a Census next year, and to ensure its correctness.

“ The conflicting claims of the Lessees of the Crown and of the Owners of the Soil, for many years impeded or prevented the development of the Mineral resources of the Province. These impediments have been removed, and I recommend you to consider whether it would be expedient to institute a more searching enquiry into the real character and extent of these resources in different parts of the Province.

“ I fervently hope that your deliberations will, by the favour of Providence, conduce to the honor and welfare of the Province.”