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By Authority.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER,

FREDERICTON, 21st JUNE, 1866.

THIS being the day appointed by Proclamation for the meeting of the Legislature, at Four o'clock His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor came to the Council Chamber, and being seated on the Throne, commanded the attendance of the House of Assembly, who being come, His Excellency was pleased to open the Session with the following

S P E E C H :

"Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council,

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

"The Address of the Legislative Council to Her Majesty the Queen, on the subject of the Union of the British North American Provinces, agreed to during the late Session, was duly transmitted by me to England to be laid at the Foot of the Throne, and I am commanded to inform you that Her Majesty has been pleased to receive the same very graciously.

"The adoption and the reception by me for transmission to Her Majesty of this Address, led to events which rendered it in my opinion expedient to dissolve the then existing General Assembly. I have now much satisfaction in resorting to your assistance and co-operation at the earliest possible moment; although I regret that it should be necessary to call you together at a period of the year which must, I fear, render your assembling a matter of much personal inconvenience to some among you.

"Her Majesty's Government have already expressed their strong and deliberate opinion, that the union of the British North American Provinces under one Government is an object much to be desired. The Legislatures of Canada and of Nova Scotia have formed the same judgment; and you will now shortly be invited to express your concurrence with or dissent from the view taken of this great question by those Provinces.

"You will have learnt with satisfaction that the mad attempt of a band of Fenian conspirators to invade the neighbouring Province of Canada has met with signal and merited failure. You will have rejoiced to perceive that the people of the British American Provinces are in every quarter alike firmly resolved to resist and to repel any attack on Her Majesty's authority and dominion; and you will, I am confident, deeply lament the loss of those brave men who have fallen in the discharge of that sacred duty.

"Information having reached me, which left no room for doubt that an invasion of this Province by a considerable band of armed and well-organized marauders was seriously contemplated, I lost no time in taking such measures, in conjunction with Vice-Admiral Sir James Hope, and Major General Doyle, as appeared to me necessary to meet the emergency. These measures, I rejoice to say, were perfectly successful, and the contemplated attack, which was at one time imminent, was abandoned as an hopeless enterprize.

"You will, I doubt not, concur with me in the expression of gratitude for the promptitude with which the aid of Her Majesty's Naval and Military Force was rendered on that occasion, and the magnitude of the scale on which it was afforded. Whilst, however, all immediate danger of an attack on the Frontier of New Brunswick appears to have terminated, it is requisite that a strict vigilance should still be exercised with regard to those who may