

"Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council,

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

"The question which you are now called together specially to consider is one of the most momentous ever submitted to a Colonial Legislature. Your deliberations will, I doubt not, be undertaken with a due sense of the importance of the interests they involve, and the solemn responsibilities which by your decision you incur, and will, I trust, be conducted with a sole view to the interests of the community at large. That the determination at which you arrive may be one calculated to promote the welfare and happiness, not of this Province only, but of all Her Majesty's subjects throughout the whole extent of the wide spread dominions of the Queen on this Continent, is my earnest hope and prayer."

The members of the House of Assembly having returned to the Lower House, His Honor the Speaker read the opening Speech.

Leave was granted to bring in certain Bills.

Mr. KERR then moved the following Address in Reply to His Excellency's Speech, which was seconded by Mr. Beveridge.

PROPOSED ADDRESS IN ANSWER TO HIS EXCELLENCY'S SPEECH.

To His Excellency The Hon. ARTHUR HAMILTON GORDON, C. M. G., Lieut. Governor and Commander in Chief of the Province of New Brunswick, &c., &c.

THE HUMBLE ADDRESS OF THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

May it please Your Excellency,

1. We, Her Majesty's faithful subjects, the Commons of New Brunswick, thank Your Excellency for your Speech at the opening of the present Session.

2. We learn with pleasure that Her Majesty the Queen graciously received the Address of the Legislative Council, on the subject of the Union of the British North American Provinces, transmitted to England by Your Excellency.

3. We agree with Your Excellency that the adoption and reception by Your Excellency, for transmission to Her Majesty of this Address on the subject of the Union, led to events which rendered it expedient to dissolve the late General Assembly, and we believe that the Constituencies of the Province have justified the course adopted by Your Excellency. Although it is an inconvenient season of the year for the discharge of Legislative duties, we will cheerfully co-operate with Your Excellency in the transaction of such business and the perfecting of such measures as the public interest demands.

4. We know that Her Majesty's Government have expressed a strong and deliberate opinion that the union of the British North American Provinces is an object much to be desired, and that the Legislature of Canada and of Nova Scotia concur in this view, and Your Excellency may rely with confidence on our cordial co-operation in any measure which may be proposed to secure that object.

5. We learn with much satisfaction that the Fenian conspirators have met with signal and merited failure in their wicked and mad attempt to invade the neighbor-

ing Province of Canada. We feel assured that the people of British North America are everywhere resolved to resist every attempt upon Her Majesty's authority and dominion, and they equally lament with you the loss of those brave men of Canada who have fallen in the discharge of their sacred duty.

6. We thank Your Excellency for taking, in conjunction with Vice-Admiral Sir James Hope, and Major General Doyle, the necessary measures to secure the people of the Province from the effect of the invasion of an armed body of marauders; and we are gratified to learn that the measures adopted were perfectly successful, and that the contemplated attack, which was at one time imminent, was abandoned.

7. We unite with Your Excellency in the expression of gratitude for the promptness with which the aid of Her Majesty's Naval and Military Forces was then rendered, and the magnitude of the scale on which it was afforded.

8. We agree with Your Excellency in the conviction that, although all immediate danger of an attack has passed away, necessary precautionary measures should be adopted and strict vigilance observed with regard to those who may endeavor to revive projects of invasion or excite disaffection in the Province, and we will consider whether the precautionary measures adopted by the Imperial and Canadian Parliaments, are not required in New Brunswick in the present emergency.

9. We were fully prepared to learn that the conduct of the Militia Force called out by Your Excellency whilst the Province was menaced with invasion, met with Your Excellency's approbation, and we rejoice that the efforts which have been made to improve that branch of the public service were attended with advantage.

10. We will consider whether the termination of the Reciprocity Treaty with the United States of America will render necessary any considerable alteration or modification of the Revenue Laws of the Province; and we unite with Your Excellency in expressing the hope that ere long some arrangement may be again concluded which will secure to both the United States and the British Provinces, the mutual benefits which would result from the establishment of a reciprocal trade on equitable terms.

11. We rejoice to be informed that the expenditure of this year will be covered by the Receipts, notwithstanding the unlooked for outlay, occasioned by the employment for a considerable period, of an armed force upon the Frontier.

12. We thank Your Excellency for having directed the Accounts of the Receipts and Expenditure of the current year, to be laid before us.

13. We agree with Your Excellency in the opinion that the question of the Union of the British North American Provinces, upon which the people of New Brunswick have recently expressed so strong an opinion, and which Your Excellency has called us together to consider, is the most momentous ever submitted to a Colonial Legislature. We shall approach the consideration of the question with a due sense of the importance of the issues involved and the solemn responsibility devolving upon us as Representatives of a free people. Our deliberations shall be conducted with a single view to the promotion of their interests; and we fervently pray that our determination may be

calculated to promote the welfare and happiness of all Her Majesty's subjects in the wide-spread dominions of the Queen on this Continent.

His Honor the Speaker informed the House of the death of the Hon. William Black, late President of the Legislative Council, and that his funeral would take place to-morrow (Friday) at 4 o'clock P.M.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Fisher it was resolved that the House show their respect for the memory of the Hon. Wm. Black, late President of the Legislative Council, by attending the funeral in a body and by wearing a badge of mourning during the Session, and that at the close of the present day's business the House adjourn over till Saturday morning at 10 o'clock.

Resolutions were passed relating to the Rules of the House and appointment of Committees.

Mr. CHANDLER moved that the following petition be received and lie on the table.

"To His Excellency the Honorable ARTHUR HAMILTON GORDON, C. M. G., Lieutenant Governor of the Province of New Brunswick, &c. &c. &c. And to the Honorable the Legislature in Session assembled—

The humble Petition and Protest of John W. Cudlip of the City of Saint John, Esquire.

RESPECTFULLY SLEWETH—

That the Honorable John H. Gray now nominally elected Speaker of the House of Assembly of New Brunswick is a member against whose return is a Protest for Bribery and Corruption, and against whose return a Petition will be presented to the House of Assembly.

The Petitioner hereby protests against the nomination, election, presentation in the Upper Branch of the Legislature to His Excellency or otherwise, of the said John H. Gray as Speaker or properly and duly qualified elected Speaker of the House of Assembly of New Brunswick.

Your Petitioner prays that this Petition may be considered according to Law.

JOHN W. CUDLIP,  
By his Attorney JOHN JAS. FRASER.  
Dated 21st June 1866.

Mr. WETMORE opposed the reception of the petition, as it was an insult to the intelligence of the House to protect against an appointment just made by the unanimous action of the members.

Hon. Mr. JOHNSON did not agree with his hon. friend, and thought it the right of every man to be heard when his petition came in regular form and was couched in respectful language. Although he was opposed to any action being taken in the matter, as he presumed the whole House was, yet he should support the motion to receive the petition and lay it on the table.

Mr. STEVENS thought it was an insult to the House to state that the gentleman, whom they had only just elected to fill the Speaker's Chair, was but "nominally" elected. Was the appointment