

His Excellency the Governor and the members of the Legislative Assembly then withdrew from the Chamber, and the President (Hon. Sir G. Shenton) resumed the chair.

## ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

THE HON. G. W. LEAKE: I venture to propose, sir, an Address-in-Reply to the Governor's Speech, and, in doing so, I feel myself expressly fortunate in having so little to remark on. We are called together for no other purpose than to remedy a mere slip in our legislation. There are no allusions in the Speech to reconstructions of banks, or depressions of any kind. Everything is splendid, and it is, therefore, difficult to find a topic to speak on. Fortunately the gentleman who will second my motion is more used to this sort of work than I am, and he will doubtless be listened to with delight. All I can say is that I hope we shall be dismissed from our labours with promptitude. I move that the following address be presented in reply to His Excellency's Speech:—

*To His Excellency Sir William Cleaver  
"Francis Robinson, Knight Grand Cross  
"of the Most Distinguished Order of  
"St. Michael and St. George, Governor  
"and Commander-in-Chief in and over  
"the Colony of Western Australia and  
"its Dependencies, &c., &c., &c.*

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—

"We, Her Majesty's loyal and dutiful subjects, the members of the Legislative Council of Western Australia, in Parliament assembled, beg to assure Your Excellency of our loyalty and affection to our Most Gracious Sovereign.

"We thank Your Excellency for the Speech you have been good enough to address to us, and shall give it our most careful consideration and attention."

THE HON. G. RANDELL: Having to take a somewhat minor part in this matter, it is not my intention to occupy the time of the Council with many remarks. The circumstances which have brought us together are certainly to be regretted; but it seems to me that no member of this Council can fail to remember that he shares the responsibilities with the leader of this House, inasmuch as the Bill was placed before us, and it was our duty almost as much as his to see that it was

correctly phrased and drafted. At the same time, I am sorry to find that the leader of the House is not here in his place to take a prominent part in introducing this Bill, which is to put right that which is wrong in the Act we passed only a short time since. I have recollections of many slips which have been made in the past, and I should be sorry now to reflect upon anyone for having made this one, although, of course, we expect more accuracy in these matters from legal gentlemen than we should from the laity. Under the circumstances, I think the best and wisest step has been taken by the Government, for it would be exceedingly unwise if the Assembly were dissolved, and the country thus left without a Parliament for six months. We do not know what contingencies might arise, and I think the Government deserve praise for what they have done. I am not aware of any injury that will be done by the course which has been pursued, but on the other hand, no doubt, considerable good will accrue. I notice that His Excellency speaks of the prospects of the country being very satisfactory, and I think we should be glad that such an authority has been able to make such a statement. Providence has blessed us with more than an average season, and there can be no question but that the goldfields are attracting much attention, not only in the other colonies, but throughout the world—and deservedly so. I have all along—since the discovery of the Southern Cross field—held the opinion that our goldfields are destined to become important factors in the future progress of the colony, and every day indicates this more and more. In fact, I may say that our future prosperity depends to a large extent upon our goldfields. I know of nothing else that will help us to such an extent. We may carry railways into our agricultural and pastoral districts, but these will have nothing like the effect which the development of the goldfields will give us. I have much pleasure in seconding the motion for the presentation of this Address.

Question—That the address be presented—put and passed.

## ABSENCE OF RESPONSIBLE MINISTER.

THE HON. J. G. H. AMHERST: As a remark has fallen, from the seconder to