

that the rights and interests of the two nations is not, as yet, finally adjusted, is what I can inform you from the highest authority. In this uncertainty of the event of peace, or war, it is my duty, as well with regard to the security of this island in general, as to the safety of the inhabitants of the particular towns and settlements in it, to recommend to your serious consideration, the high importance it may be of to each individual, his family and property, that a due and early attention be paid to embodying and equipping themselves with the means of defence, in a manner as prescribed by the militia law of this island; long since enacted, with a view to the safety, protection, and defence, of its inhabitants, their families, and possessions, in a time of war, and in the hour of danger.

In the recess since the last session, I have had the pleasure of visiting several of the remote towns and settlements of this island, and it has afforded me the highest satisfaction to behold the industrious exertions which have been made by the settlers, and to learn from themselves the success and plenty with which their laudable efforts in this infant colony have been rewarded.

The herring and cod fisheries in the bays, and all along the northern coast of this island, I am told, have this year far exceeded whatever has before been observed; and that the harvests in general, but particularly that of winter wheat and rye, have been better than ever they were in this island; and that in quality they have equalled, if not excelled, what has ever been known in any other part of North America. But amidst the general harmony of the country, and these sources of encouragement to industry and grounds of contentment among the inhabitants, the inconvenience of a want of cash, or some circulating medium to facilitate the intercourse of dealings among themselves, seems to be a difficulty very generally felt and lamented. I therefore think it a duty, which I owe to the interest and convenience of the good people of this flourishing colony, to recommend to your deliberation, in order to remedy the deficiency complained of, the expediency of framing a law for the emitting (to a certain limited amount) bills or debentures, which may be voluntarily accepted by creditors of the public, and made a legal tender to the public treasury of this government, for the discharge of any inland duties, taxes, other debts whatever, due to, and payable at, the public treasury.

*Gentlemen of the Council, and*

*Gentlemen of the Assembly,*

The necessity of enacting some new laws, and the amending of others, for the

benefit of the inhabitants, and the better regulation of the public affairs of his Majesty's government in this island, will, I make no doubt, occur to you in the course of your present consultations for the public good. But the confidence I have in your zeal and attachment to his Majesty's sacred person and government, and the knowledge I have of your attention and solicitude for the prosperity and happiness of the people of this island, and the ease of my administration, make it unnecessary for me to say any thing more, at present, than only to recommend to you, a continuance of that unanimity and dispatch, in the public business, which prevailed during the last session of the General Assembly, and to assure you of my ready and cheerful approbation and concurrence in every salutary measure for the benefit of his Majesty's service, the safety of this island, and the prosperity and happiness of its inhabitants.

EDMUND FANNING.

*Council Chamber, Charlotte Town 10th Nov. 1790*

The Address of his Majesty's Council to his Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, in answer to his Excellency's speech. To his Excellency EDMUND FANNING, LL.D. Lieutenant Governor and Commander in Chief in and over his Majesty's Island of St. John, and the Territories adjacent thereunto, Chancellor of the same, &c. &c. &c.

*The humble Address of his Majesty's Council, in General Assembly met.*

SIR,

WE his Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the members of his Majesty's Council, beg leave to return your Excellency our most cordial thanks for your speech at the opening of the present session of the General Assembly.

The public business of his Majesty's government in this island, having rendered it necessary to convene the legislature in the course of the present winter, it must be far more convenient for such of the members as have remote places of residence, to attend now on that service, than at a later and more inclement season of the year.

The rumour of a war with Spain has, we presume, long since reached the ears of all descriptions of his Majesty's faithful subjects in this island; and it gives us much concern to be assured, from unquestionable authority, that the respective rights and interests of the two nations are not, as yet, finally and amicably adjusted. In this uncertainty of the event of peace, or war, it cannot be more your duty to provide for the safety of the island at large