

fit every effort to save that wing and the main body of that building.—the southern wing was saved by dint of long continued and strenuous exertion, but not without considerable injury being done to it.

As the fire originated in the rooms appropriated to the use of Dr. Powel, and his Clerks—the whole of his papers are lost; but the Library, the Furniture, and all the valuables of the centre, or main body, of the building, and of the southern wing are saved. Nevertheless, the total loss and damage, exclusive of what has been destroyed in Dr. Powel's suit of apartments, cannot be estimated at less than £2000; which, in the present state of the finances, and debt, of the Province, cannot be considered as a trifling affair. No part of the property was insured—Indeed one would have thought that if any building was safe, that was, isolated, as it is, and a massive brick building, free from the usual liabilities to danger of this kind.—The whole province has sustained a loss.

PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT.

Thursday, Jan. 13.

The Usher of the Black Rod acquainted the House that His Excellency required their immediate attendance in the Legislative Council Chamber. The House proceeded to the Council Chamber, when His Excellency, after sanctioning the appointment of Mr. Wilson, was graciously pleased to deliver the following Speech:—

Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,

In the absence of any urgent occasion for your deliberations at an earlier period, I have called you together at the time which best accords with the ordinary course of the public business.

The accident which has deprived you of the buildings erected for the use of the Legislature, has been attended with the destruction of docu-

ments, the loss of which may produce temporary inconvenience, though I trust it will not render your labours less effectual for the general good.

Since the Legislature was last assembled, a very considerable sum has been dispensed from the Imperial Treasury to the sufferers by the late war, and the recommendation of His Majesty upon the prayer of this province, has procured such a modification of the East India Company's Charter, as will, it is hoped, admit of our being supplied henceforward with a most important article of consumption, in a manner that must equally contribute to the increase of lawful commerce, and the suppression of an illicit trade which has been alike injurious to the revenue, and prejudicial to public morals.

In the success of your joint address, praying for a deduction from the British Import Duty on a principal production of the western district, another instance of the royal consideration has been afforded, by which much encouragement will be given to the agricultural exertions of the inhabitants of that portion of the province, who, though enjoying a fertile soil and genial climate, sustain in a commercial point of view, much comparative inconvenience from their inland situation.

Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,

I have given directions that the Public Accounts and the Estimates for the present year, shall be laid before you. You will find that a very considerable debt remains charged against the funds of the province, notwithstanding the receipt and application of the arrears awarded by the last arbitrators. I trust, that either by the improvement of the revenue, as our population becomes more numerous, or by measures which you may find it expedient to devise, with a view to accelerate its increase, the receipts will be made at no distant period, to exceed so far the necessary charges as to afford the prospect of speedy re-