

# JOURNAL

OF

## THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

OF

### PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

SECOND SESSION OF THE SIXTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

THURSDAY, December 21, 1843.

**T**HE House having, by several Proclamations, been prorogued until this day, then to meet for the dispatch of business:

And being met—

A Message from His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, by Henry Palmer, Esquire, Usher of the Black Rod.

Mr. Speaker;

His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor commands the immediate attendance of this Honorable House in the Council Chamber.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker and the House went up to attend His Excellency in the Council Chamber—and being returned,

Mr. Speaker reported, that when the House did attend His Excellency this day in the Council Chamber, His Excellency was pleased to make a Speech to both Houses of the Legislature, of which Mr. Speaker said he had, to prevent mistakes, obtained a copy, which was read by the Clerk, and is as followeth:—

*Mr. President, and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council;*

*Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly;*

It is with regret that I call you from your homes earlier than usual; but considerations arising from an error in the Laws relating to Statute Labour and the Small Debt Courts have rendered your meeting advisable.

When, in the last Session, you repealed and suspended all former Laws upon the above mentioned subjects, all appointments under them became vacant; but, as some of the Members of the House of Assembly had held appointments

under these Acts when elected to their seats, and as, in the event of their being reappointed, their possession of them might thereby be unnecessarily affected, you agreed to a clause in each of the new Laws, suspending, as far as regards these Members, the operation of the 7th of William 4, cap. 13, "for vacating the Seats of Members," the only Act affecting them; but by mistake the words "5th of William 4th" were inserted in the clauses referred to—a palpable error, because this last named Act had already been repealed by the other. My intention was, to have named these errors at the usual period of your meeting; but from representations made to me by the Speaker of the House of Assembly, for the opinion of the Law Officers of the Crown, there appears a determination in some parties to use these errors in direct opposition to the manifest intention of the Legislature, for which reason I have deemed it proper at once to bring the question before your notice.

I again bring to your consideration the Laws affecting the Debtor and Creditor of this Colony. It may, possibly, not be judicious wholly to adopt those of England; but a nearer approach to them would, I think, be very beneficial.

The reconsideration of the "Act for ascertaining and establishing the Boundary Lines of Counties and Townships," &c., which is now partially suspended, appears to be highly necessary.

The important subject of the Fisheries is worthy of your deepest attention, with a view to affording all possible encouragement to so valuable a branch of industry. It is most obvious that an extensive and well founded establishment in this department of commercial enterprise would be the means of giving to the Island that Foreign trade, the absence of which is lamented as a cause of the depression in the pursuits of our Agricultural population.

The position of this Colony enables you to commence the Fishing season even earlier than Newfoundland. You have advantages of procuring bait which are not found there. You grow your own produce. Providence has bestowed abundant crops; but they are often sold in the neighbouring Markets at a ruinous loss; and yet, with Fish abounding on your shores, an organized Fishery is wanting.