

wards that protecting Providence which has continued to shield the precious life of our Sovereign from the blow of the assassin, Her Majesty's loyal subjects in this portion of her dominions have, I know, warmly participated.

*Mr. Speaker, Hon. Gentlemen, and Gentlemen,*

Together with a detailed account of the actual state of the Public Revenues, including all the receipts and disbursements which have taken place since the last meeting of the Provincial Legislature, I have directed that a separate account be laid before you of the various sums of which I have taken upon myself to order the payment since my arrival in Newfoundland; and as the circumstances which have appeared to me to render the assumption of this responsibility on my part an act of imperative duty towards the Queen's subjects in this colony, must be fully within your knowledge, it may only be requisite for me to say with reference to those payments, that I have, as a general rule, confined myself to such items respecting which there appeared to have existed no difference of opinion between the Council and Assembly. With you, therefore, it rests to decide how far it may be expedient or just to exonerate me for having, under such circumstances, taken upon myself to give effect to an act of Legislative appropriation, which had unhappily been left unperfected by the usual and necessary constitutional forms.

I am happy to be enabled to inform you that up to the period of the expiration the Revenue Act, the state of the public revenues and the general financial condition of the colony afford grounds of reasonable satisfaction; but I recommend to you to take it into your *immediate* consideration the means by which the very heavy deficiency arising from the unavoidable discontinuance in the collection of Colonial Duties since the first day of July last, and amounting, as appears by the statement which will be laid before you, to not less than £20,000, may be repaired so as to press with least weight upon the community—whether by passing an act to continue or to revive the expired Revenue Act, by giving a retrospective operation to its provisions, as recommended by the Right Hon. the Secretary of State for the Colonies,—or by the imposition of such an increase of duty on articles of consumption as may hold out a reasonable prospect of replacing the deficiency by raising the general amount of the public revenue for a given period. To any well considered measure for effecting the important object in view, I am ready to give my assent, and in reference to this subject, I recommend to your attentive consideration the act recently passed by the Imperial Parliament for establishing a revised Tariff of duties to be levied on certain articles of British produce and manufacture from and after the 5th day of July, 1843, of which a copy will be laid before you. The renewal of such other temporary Acts as may have expired, or be about to expire, will also receive your early attention.

The estimates which will be presented to you of the sums which are required for the public service of the colony, have been framed in accordance with the instructions of Her Majesty's Government, by which the expenditure is required to be brought strictly within the anticipated amount of the Revenue, and are therefore less in accordance with the actual exigencies of the colony, more especially with respect to Roads, than with its present available means. Of the latter, I confidently anticipate a regular and progressive increase, which will, I doubt not, be attended by a corresponding liberality on your part, in making increased provision for the several objects of the public service, to which I will now proceed to draw your attention.

In giving a well merited precedence to the important subject of 'Education,' I