

JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

A Message was then sent to His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor informing him that the Lower House of Assembly had chosen *Ralph Brecken*, Esq. to be their Speaker, on which His Excellency was pleased to send a Message, and say he approved their choice.

According to His Excellency's command Mr. Speaker with the Members of the House went up to the Council Chamber, and spoke to the following effect, vizt.

May it please Your Excellency,

It now becomes my duty, as Speaker of the House of Assembly, in their behalf to request of your Excellency, as the privilege of this house, that the Members thereof, during the Session, may be freed from molestation, that they may have freedom of Speech in their debates, that they may have the power of punishing their own members, and have free and easy access to your Excellency as His Majesty's Representative, on all occasions, and I do also in their name and on their behalf, beg leave to claim all their ancient rights and privileges.

His Excellency was then pleased to make the following answer:—

Mr. Speaker,

To protect and secure the House of Assembly in the free and full enjoyment of all its rights and privileges, is no more than my absolute duty. Its Members shall always meet with a cordial reception from me, and they may rely on my sincere endeavors to facilitate the success of their exertions, for the welfare of the Colony, and their own respective comfort, prosperity and happiness.

The House having resumed its sitting, Mr. Speaker reported that when the house attended this day in the Council Chamber, His Excellency was pleased to deliver to both houses of Assembly a speech, of which, to prevent mistakes, he had obtained a copy, which was ordered to be read and is as follows, vizt.:

“ Mr. President, and Gentlemen of his Majesty's Council,

“ Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,

ON receiving intelligence of a War having been declared by the Government of the United States of America, against the United Kingdom of Great Britain, Ireland, and her Dependencies, His Majesty's Colonial Council was convened, and I deemed proper in compliance with the advice thereof, to send an officer charged with confidential Dispatches to his Majesty's neighbouring Colony of Nova-Scotia.

“ It is with peculiar satisfaction, that, in result of that mission, I am enabled of announcing to you, the cordial assurances, on the part of his Excellency the Lieutenant General Commanding, and the Admiral at Halifax, of affording for the service, and protection of this Island, such means as the actual conjuncture, of affairs may occasionally require.

“ These hostile occurrences rendering it imperiously necessary that some prompt and vigorous measures be immediately adopted to ascertain the efficient defence and security of this Colony against all eventual attempts of an enterprising enemy, I beg leave to recommend, as the primary and most pressing object of your duty a revision and improvement of our Militia Laws and Regulations.

“ The faithful prosecution and discharge of that important duty will, no doubt, afford you, not only a gratifying opportunity of evincing your zeal and attachment to our most gracious Sovereign and the best of Constitutions on earth; but also of fostering the seeds of the similar zeal and attachment, amongst all Ranks of individuals which compose our several Militia Corps, whose laudible disposition, I con-