

Report

The chairman reported from the committee that they had gone through the said address, and had agreed to the same without amendment.

On motion of Mr. Nugent, seconded by Mr. Doyle,

Ordered,—That the said address be engrossed and read a third time this day.

Agreeably to order, the said engrossed address was read a third time, and is as follows :—

Address.

*To His Excellency Henry Prescott, Esq.
Companion of the Most Honorable
Military Order of the Bath, Governor
and Commander-in-Chief in and over
the Island of Newfoundland and its
Dependencies, &c. &c.*

May it please Your Excellency,

We, Her Majesty's faithful Commons of Newfoundland, in General Assembly convened, beg leave to thank your Excellency for your Excellency's Speech at the opening of the present Session of the Legislature.

Concurring as we do in your Excellency's view of the propriety of holding the general annual Session of the Legislature in the Winter Season, we shall cheerfully enter upon the public business, both regular and incidental, although we, too, with your Excellency, regret the painful circumstances that have made our present convention imperative.

That it is not to the remissness of the House of Assembly, or their unwillingness amply to provide for the wants of the Poor, that the present distress is attributable, is proved by the circumstance that in the last Session we passed a Bill granting to Her Majesty a sum in our opinion fully adequate to the exigency of the time, which Bill, however, unhappily was not permitted to arrive at the maturity of Law ; and we regret exceedingly that your Excellency should have deemed it necessary to intimate in your Excellency's Speech, that to that Bill your Excellency's Instructions forbade your giving your Excellency's assent, should it have received the sanction of the two Houses of the Legislature, although we are not aware in what respect the measure in question, or any provision therein embodied, is either opposed to or beside these Instructions.

The Instructions to which your Excellency alludes, we apprehend, are embodied in certain Despatches from Her Majesty's Secretaries of State for the Colonies, sent down by Message bearing date the Twelfth of August, One thousand eight hundred and thirty nine, and which Instructions, with reference to this Bill, in the opinion of this House, go no farther than to express an opinion that the Legislature should not themselves nominate, or authorize others to appoint, to Stipendiary Offices ; and in the Bill adverted to, the House of Assembly carefully abstained from violating that principle, leaving to your Excellency the sole appointment to the Office of District Surgeon, the only Stipendiary Office contemplated therein.

Feeling deeply for the miseries of the Poor, we shall, notwithstanding this difficulty, apply our utmost zeal and intelligence to this important subject, in order that the contemplated relief may be made as early as possible available, and shall be most anxious to render any measure that may be introduced for that purpose alike consistent with the just and reasonable wishes of Her Majesty's Government, and promotive of the interests of the Poor.

Your Excellency is pleased in your Excellency's speech to observe upon the subject of the last contingency bill, and to suggest that as the subject is discussed at some length in an address from the House to her Majesty in the last session, a bill