

with capital offences, and otherwise to amend the law with respect to offenders convicted of crimes punishable with death. He explained the provisions of the Bill which had become necessary, in consequence of doubts as to the authority of Judges to retain, in safe custody, parties tried for crimes, but acquitted on the grounds of insanity. The Bill was principally a transcript of the English Act, which had been passed after Hatfield's attempt on the life of George the Third, and had been placed on the Statute Book of Nova Scotia in 1855, after the trial of Mr. Martin, of Sydney, Cape Breton, for the murder of Mr. Dodd. The want of some such Act had been recently experienced here, in the case of the convict, McNeill, who was last term found guilty of the murder of Mr. Lane. It was considered by several, that had the Court had power to consign him to imprisonment for life, the verdict might have been different. That, however, was a mere surmise; but still it was possible, in other cases, that Juries might be more inclined to convict if they anticipated the unconditional release of the offender. The Bill proposed that, in the cases to which it was intended to apply, where the accused should be acquitted on the ground of insanity at the time of the commission of the offence, the Court should have power to order him to be kept in safe custody during the pleasure of the Lieutenant Governor. It also provided that restraint may be put upon insane parties who may be considered dangerous, and, therefore, likely to commit crimes; and authorised Justices of the Peace to commit such dangerous persons, when discovered, under circumstances denoting a derangement of intellect or intention of committing crime, not to be bailed except by two Justices of the Peace, one of whom to be the committing Justice, or by one of the Justices of the Supreme Court. It also provided that the Court, or any Judge thereof, shall allow the benefit of a conditional pardon immediately on the same having been signified to it or him, and the same shall be entered of record in the Court before which the party may have been convicted; and shall be as effectual as if made originally by the Court, subject to be changed from time to time by the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

SATURDAY, 20th February.

Hon. Mr. Forgan, from the Committee appointed to wait upon His Excellency, reported that His Excellency was pleased to say that he would receive the Address of the Council this day, at 10 o'clock, p. m. The Council having attended His Excellency with the Address, on their return, His Honor the President reported that the Address having been presented, His Excellency had been pleased to reply thereto, and he read the reply, as given below.

The following is a copy of the Address:—

To His Excellency Sir DOMINICK DALY, Kt., Lieutenant Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over Her Majesty's Island Prince Edward, and the Territories thereunto belonging, Chancellor, Vice Admiral and Ordinary of the same, &c. &c. &c.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY:

We, the Members of Her Majesty's Council of Prince Edward Island, in our legislative capacity convened, respectfully request that Your Excellency will be pleased to receive our thanks for the Speech delivered by you at the opening of the present Session of the General Assembly.

We trust that the confidence which Your Excellency has been pleased to express, that our labours will be resumed in a spirit that will attest our zeal for the public welfare, will be fully realized.

We have reason to be thankful to an all-bountiful Providence in having blessed us with the late abundant harvest; and we rejoice to learn from Your Excellency that the state of the Revenue for the past year exhibits an increase in amount over that of the previous year,—at the same time, we regret to observe an apprehension, on the part of Your Excellency, that a diminution of the Revenue of this Colony in the current year may take place, consequent upon the general depression already experienced in the various branches of commercial industry in this Island and elsewhere; but we trust that that diminution will not be to any very great extent.

When the Despatch from the Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, on the question of the proposed guarantee for a loan intended to be raised for the purchase of lands in this Island, is communicated to us by Your Excellency, it shall receive our respectful attention.

We assure Your Excellency that, in common with all Her Majesty's loyal subjects throughout Her extensive dominions, it is with extreme regret that we have heard of the mutiny which has so lamentably disturbed the possessions of Her Majesty in the East Indies, and which has been characterised by such barbaric atrocities; and we cordially concur with Your Excellency in the opinion, that it has already been so far reduced, by British valour and heroism, as that there is no room to doubt its final suppression; and we sincerely trust that the successes which, under Divine Providence, have attended the British arms will lead to the speedy establishment of peace, upon a firm, lasting and honorable foundation.

We deeply sympathise with the destitute and suffering of the survivors of this wide spread mutiny; and we trust that the generosity manifested by their fellow subjects throughout Her Majesty's Empire, will tend to alleviate their distress.

Our earnest attention shall be given to any measure which may be submitted to us, calculated to render more effectual the laws for the suppression of illicit traffic.

We are gratified in the improvement that has taken place, during the past year, in the prosecution of the fisheries; and we fully agree with Your Excellency, that if continued, this source of industry will add to the welfare and increase the resources and prosperity of the country.

We assure Your Excellency that we are much pleased to be informed of the improvement in Agriculture and Farm Stock throughout the Island, which, no doubt, under Providence, may be attributable to the liberal grants made by the Legislature for those purposes.

We thank Your Excellency for the assurance of your ready co-operation in any measure we may entertain for the honor and advantage of the Island, knowing how much Your Excellency has at heart the advancement and welfare of this loyal Colony.

The following is a copy of His Excellency's Reply:—

Mr. President and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:

In Her Majesty's name, I thank you for this loyal and dutiful Address; and I beg to assure you that the prompt and satisfactory manner in which the Legislative Council has responded to the observations which I deemed it my duty to address to the General Assembly, on the occasion of opening its present Session, is very gratifying to me.

MONDAY, 22d February.

Hon. Mr. Aldous laid on the Table the Treasurer's account with the Government for the past fiscal year; and on his motion, the Bill for the safe custody of insane persons, &c., was read a second time, and ordered to be committed to-morrow.