

*Mr. President* acquainted the House, that His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor had provisionally appointed John Aldous, Esquire, by Warrant, bearing date the Twenty-ninth day of November, 1856, a Member of this House, who desires to be admitted.

*Ordered*, That *Mr. Dingwell* and *Mr. Beaton* be a Committee to attend Mr. Aldous, to see him qualified.

*Mr. Dingwell*, from the Committee appointed to attend Mr. Aldous, and see him qualified, reported, that they had, according to order, attended Mr. Aldous, who took the Oaths in the presence of the Lieutenant Governor.

The Honorable *Mr. Aldous* was then introduced between *Mr. Dingwell* and *Mr. Beaton*, and took his seat.

His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor having come to the Council Chamber, and being seated, the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod received His Excellency's commands to desire the attendance of the House of Assembly, immediately, in the Council Chamber.

The House of Assembly, with their Speaker, having attended accordingly, His Excellency was pleased to open the Session with the following Speech:—

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

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

I have much pleasure in again meeting you for the discharge of the important duties that devolve upon us.

It affords me much satisfaction to be enabled to inform you of the favourable determination of Her Majesty's Government with reference to the suggestion contained in your joint Address of last Session to the Queen, on the subject of a guarantee by Her Majesty's Government for such a loan as might be sufficient for the purchase of Township Lands in this Island, with a view to the more speedy and general conversion of Leasholds into Freehold tenures.

The Despatches from the Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies on this subject, shall be communicated to you, and a measure will be submitted for your consideration, in order to secure to the industrious inhabitants of this Island the benefits which have been thus placed within your reach by the paternal solicitude of Her Majesty's Government.

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

The condition of the Revenue is satisfactory, and indicates general prosperity among the consuming population of the Island.

The Accounts for the past year, and the Estimates for the current year, shall be laid before you; and I rely on your readiness to grant such Supplies as may be necessary for the efficient support of the public service.