

be a division of the House on the subject, but as the measure was one of great importance, and one on which he was desirous to hear the opinions of members generally, he hoped his learned and hon. friend from Isle Madame would allow the resolutions to lie on the table for a few days, and, after the necessary business of the house was despatched, members could return to the consideration of the unembarrassed question.

Mr Doyle said, that no person could be more willing than he was to be guided by the wisdom and experience of his hon. friend from the county of Sydney; but was it necessary now to incur delay? Did it need to be stated at that late period that the exclusion of the people was a ground of general complaint? If allowed to pursue the convictions of his own mind, the course he was following was the better; the House, now fresh from their constituents, and reflecting the feelings of the people, should pronounce their opinions on the subject at once, and let the Council know the general feeling and determination. A motion had been made to appoint a Committee to do business with the Council. "This was the time to tell them, if members meant to do any thing, they meant to do it then. This was the first day of the Session, and he knew nothing more desirable than to meet the difficulty in the outset. He was unwilling for the House to adjourn one night till they had expressed their opinion. He knew the danger of delays, and was desirous to avoid them.

Mr Morton said, that he had frequently known good resolutions lost by the injudicious haste with which they were pressed upon the House, and was desirous that the House should not enter upon the subject at that late hour.

Mr Uniacke thought it his duty, as having been a member of the late House, and somewhat experienced with the measures necessary to get through, to call the attention of members to the embarrassment likely to ensue from injudiciously pressing through the Resolution before the House. No man felt more indignant than himself at the idea of any branch of the Legislature of a free people presuming to sit in secrecy, but he thought the question out of its proper time. For his part, he thought nothing could be more absurd than the necessity imposed upon the House, when they wished to gain any information respecting the other branch, to dig into their musty records for satisfaction. But the appointment of the committee of the Public Accounts was always made on the first day, because, without their report, it was impossible for the house to do business. He then referred to an old act which rendered examination before joint Committees imperative, and urged upon the House the dangers likely to result, if by any hasty measure, they prevent the possibility of the report being made within the time prescribed by the act.

Mr Doyle did not conceive that the law went to support the deduction which his learned and hon. friend from Cape Breton had drawn from it. He maintained that a joint committee was an usurpation on the privileges of the House, and was unknown in England, and the Statute referred to did not touch the point; and besides, last year the report of the Committee of Public Accounts was not brought in for 3 weeks after the commencement of the Session. His hon. friend from the township of Cornwallis had mentioned that many a good measure had been lost by pressing it too hastily. He wished to ask that gentleman if his legislative experience suggested no cases where a measure had been lost by not pressing it hastily enough? He thought that that was the time for pressing on the measure, and responding to the general voice of the people, from Cape Sable to Cape North.

Mr W. Young said, that it was a matter of

great consequence, to understand accurately what the house were doing. The question was not one, whether it were prudent to continue the practice of association on the Committee members of both branches, but whether the House would suspend the established course of business, till the grand question of opening the doors were decided in the other end of the building. No man could come fresh from his constituents with any degree of toleration for the present system. In 1835, a resolution conveying the sense of the house on this subject, was introduced by the learned and hon. Gentleman from Cumberland; and in 1836, the same principle was recognized. He was of opinion that there was as much, if not more disposition in the present House to yield to the popular feeling, but were the House prepared for the next step to be taken? Should the Council set the opinion of that House at defiance? (Mr Doyle, we shall do no business with them.) No Sir, (continued Mr Young) I am not prepared to say, that the majority of the House are of that opinion; I am ready to go as far as any man for the redress of grievances, but I would not like to take a step which we might have reason to repent, and which might be followed by the loss of revenue, and the deprivation of Road Money for the ensuing year.

A motion having been made for the adjournment, it being dark—Mr Howe stated that, for one, he had no wish to press the resolutions until they had been fully discussed, and every gentleman had had an opportunity of giving his opinion. Having touched on the general merits, he was called to order by Mr Dodd, for not speaking to the adjournment, the question upon which was then put and carried.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1.

The principal part of the morning was occupied by a motion, made by Mr Wilkins, before the doors were opened, to rescind the Resolution passed the previous day, for dispensing with the service of a Chaplain; in which the arguments pro and con, that have been already reported, were gone into—the new speakers were Mr Goudge in favor, and Mr McDougall against, who touched upon the general merits of the question. The motion was resisted by Mr Howe and others on the ground that no notice had been given overnight, and that to break through the general rule of the House requiring such notice, would be to introduce a dangerous and inconvenient practice. Mr Stewart and others supported this view of the case, and urged Mr W. not to press the question in that shape, as a division upon it would prove nothing—some, who thought with him as to the Chaplain, not being willing to violate the established rule after some time spent in desultory discussion, the question was put, and the names stood:—

For the Resolution—Messrs. Taylor, B. Smith, Goudge, Thorne, Fairbanks, DesBarres, Hutton, Whitman, Dodd, Dewolf, Kavanaugh, Morton, Uniacke, Heckman, Miller, Wilkins, and Rudolf.

Against the Resolution—Messrs. D'Entremont, Stewart, Huntington, G. Smith, J. Young, Doyle, Lewis, McDougall, Benjamin, Spenserwater, Clements, Dickey, J. Sargent, McDonald, Holmes, W. Young, Forrester, Upham, Allison, Chipman, W. Sargent, Bell, Annand, Howe, Radsworth, Elder, Holland, McLellan, and Archibald.

The draft of an Address, in answer to the Governor's Speech, was then reported, and briefly discussed. One or two slight alterations were suggested and adopted. The words "and economical," used in the speech, were inserted in the answer, on motion of Mr W. Young. On the clause referring to the Fisheries, Mr DeBarres denounced the interference of the Americans, as the cause of the failure

of the Mackerel and other Fishery to the Eastward—he said that their vessels surrounded the Eastern Shores, and so numerous were they in the Harbors, that our own people were often afraid to set their nets, for fear of having them destroyed. Some conversation arose on the clause relative to the Judiciary—as differences of opinion seemed to exist as to whether the quiet of the Country was to be attributed altogether to the administration of the laws—as in part to the decline of intemperance the diffusion of knowledge—and the improved morals of the people. Mr Forrester said, that the legal tribunals had seized his property without shadow of Law, and thus tempted him to commit offences. The following Address was finally agreed upon, and the committee sent to ascertain at what hour His Excellency would receive the House:

To His Excellency Major General, Sir Colin Campbell, Knight Commander of the Most Honorable Military Order of the Bath, Lieutenant Governor, and Commander in Chief, in and over His Majesty's Province of Nova-Scotia and its Dependencies, &c. &c. &c.

THE HUMBLE ADDRESS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

May it please Your Excellency—

WE, His Majesty's dutiful Subjects, the Representatives of His loyal People of Nova Scotia, thank your Excellency for the Speech with which you were pleased to open the present Session, and feel grateful for the peaceful and prosperous condition of the Province.

The partial failure of the harvest has, by divine dispensation, been succeeded by a mild Autumn, and moderate Winter, whereby the Agriculturist has been relieved, and the sufferings of the poor alleviated; we regret that any of our countrymen should have been compelled to solicit assistance from your Excellency, and whilst we thank you for your prompt relief afforded, we assure you that any future appeal of distress will not be disregarded.

The Commercial improvement, and consequent increase of Revenue, are subjects of congratulation; and we concur with your Excellency in opinion, that judicious and economical expenditure at the present crisis is indispensable.

We deeply deplore the paralysed state of our Fisheries, which ought to afford a valuable Export, and constitute the staple of Nova Scotia; and although we admit that the past season has been unfavorable, we are compelled to attribute the decline of this valuable branch of Industry, to the repeated infringement of existing treaties, by the Citizens of other Nations.

It affords us much pleasure to hear from your Excellency, that the efficient discipline of the Malina merits your approbation.

The zeal evinced by your Excellency in all matters of local interest, and the attention bestowed on the improvements of the Roads throughout the Province, shall command our consideration of any system having a tendency to insure more economical and judicious expenditure in that service.

We thank your Excellency for submitting to us the Public accounts; and you may rely on our disposition to provide for the necessary support of his Majesty's Government.

We feel proud that our laws are uprightly and duly administered, and that crime has diminished, and are thankful that a bountiful Providence affords us such flattering anticipations of National prosperity;—Sensible of the confidence reposed in us by the People, we shall endeavour, by uniting our energies, and conducting our deliberations with harmony, to develop the resources and advance the interests of this happy portion of His Majesty's Dominions.

We feel assured of your Excellency's anxious desire to promote the welfare of his Majesty's Subjects and will cheerfully co-operate for the attainment of an object so desirable.

During some conversation upon matters of internal regulation, Mr Howe requested that the wooden partition in the Gallery might be removed—they had been breaking down religious distinctions, and it would be wise to get rid of this social distinction. It was justly offensive to large bodies of the people: indeed, the mass of their constituents, being farmers and mechanics, who must come to the Gallery in their ordinary dresses, or not come at all, were liable to be separated in this way, from the very small minority of

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