

THURSDAY, March 22, 1827.

THE House met pursuant to adjournment.—PRAYERS.

The *Attorney General*, chairman of the committee appointed to prepare an Address in answer to his Excellency's Speech, presented the draft of an Address to the House, which was read.

On motion, the House resolved itself into a Committee of the whole House, to take the said Address into consideration.

Mr. Speaker left the chair:

The *Attorney General* took the chair of the committee:

Mr. Speaker resumed the chair:

The *Attorney General*, chairman of the committee, reported, that they had gone through the Address and agreed to the same, which, on motion, was agreed to by the House, and is as follows: viz.

To His Excellency, Colonel JOHN READY, Lieutenant Governor and Commander in Chief, in and over His Majesty's Island Prince Edward, and the Territories thereunto adjacent, Chancellor and Vice-Admiral of the same, &c. &c. &c.

May it please your Excellency,

"We his Majesty's loyal and dutiful subjects the Representatives of Prince Edward Island in General Assembly convened, beg to offer your Excellency our thanks for your speech at the opening of the Session.

"We are highly gratified to find that your Excellency meets us with a strong impression of the improving state of the Island, and with a persuasion equally strong, that our labours in the Session will be under the guidance of a spirit both patriotic and prudent. It shall be our endeavour to justify by our conduct, this persuasion of your Excellency.

"We lament, in common with all his Majesty's Subjects, the death of his Royal Highness the Duke of York—a loss which the country will long deplore.

"We thank your Excellency for directing the Public Accounts to be laid before us, to which we shall pay all attention, and shall be ready to make due provision for the public Service.

"We feel, in common with the whole Colony, the great improvement recently made on the highways, and owe your Excellency many thanks for your continued attention to this important object.

"We are well aware of the importance of an Inland Post, and shall apply ourselves to the consideration of the means by which this object may be attained.

"We thank your Excellency for your suggestion of the fitness of an Agricultural Society—we are fully aware of its importance in a country so eminently agricultural as this is, and shall most cordially concur in any judicious measure for the accomplishment of an object so desirable.

"We cannot omit this opportunity of offering to your Excellency the thanks of the country for your valuable importation of horses, cattle, and sheep, which promise to be of much value to the Colony, and will very materially lessen the necessary expenditure attending an Agricultural Society.

"We feel every wish to give facility and encouragement to a commencement of George-Town and Prince-Town—but tho' at present we do not profess to see the precise mode in which these places may be encouraged, we yet beg to express our readiness to

concur in measures to advance an object in all respects so desirable.

"We shall most willingly enter on the consideration of the state of Gaols and Public Buildings, when we have the benefit of such further information as your Excellency has offered to lay before us.

"We rejoice to learn that amid all the difficulties and embarrassments which have surrounded the commercial world, our Revenue has not only reached its former height, but has increased; and we feel confident, that we shall do all we safely can to maintain this favourable state of our finances.

"We thank your Excellency for your notice of that harmony and unanimity which you are pleased to remark as having characterized our former proceedings, and trust that nothing may ever occur to prevent its continuance. We feel confident that no circumstance can ever prevent us from affording to the King's Government the requisite aids and supplies for the use and the advantage of the Colony."

On motion, it was ordered, that a committee be appointed to wait on his Excellency the Lieut. Governor, to know when he would be pleased to receive the Address of this House in answer to his Excellency's Speech. Mr. *M'Neill*, Mr. *Cameron*, and Dr. *M'Alay*, were accordingly appointed for that purpose.

The *Attorney General* moved for leave to bring in a bill to ascertain the population of the Island, the number of its stock, and the extent of its cleared land, which was granted, and the same, on motion, received the first reading.

Mr. *M'Neill*, chairman of the committee appointed to wait on his Excellency the Lieut. Governor, to know when he would be pleased to receive the Address of this House in answer to his Speech, reported, that his Excellency had appointed half past two o'clock to-morrow.

The *Attorney General* moved for leave to bring in a bill for regulating Apprentices, which was granted, and the same, on motion, received the first reading.

On motion, the said Bill received the second reading.

On motion, the House resolved itself into a committee of the whole House, to take into consideration the said bill.

Mr. Speaker left the chair:

The *Attorney General* took the chair of the committee:

Mr. Speaker resumed the chair:

The *Attorney General*, chairman of the committee, reported, that they had gone through the bill and agreed to the same.

On motion of Mr. *Cameron*, it was ordered, that this House do, on Thursday next, resume the consideration of the petition of the Roman Catholics presented last Session.

Adjourned to 11 o'clock to-morrow.