

They have elected me to that important and honorable situation, and they now present me for Your Excellency's approval."

The President of this House said—

"Mr. Johnson,

"I am commanded by His Excellency to assure you, that he is fully sensible of your zeal for the public service, and of your sufficiency to execute the duties of the office to which you have been elected by the House of Assembly, and that he doth most readily approve of their choice, and allow and confirm you to be their Speaker."

Then the Speaker of the Assembly said—

"May it please Your Excellency,

"Your Excellency having been pleased to approve the choice the House of Assembly have made in electing me to be their Speaker, on my own behalf I have to request that any error of mine may not be imputed to the House of Assembly."

The President of this House said—

"Mr. Speaker,

"Although His Excellency is sensible that you do not stand in need of such assurance, His Excellency will ever put the most favourable construction on your words and actions."

Then His Excellency was pleased to open the Session with the following Speech to both Houses :—

"Mr. President, and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council,

"Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,

"THE period of the year has now arrived when it has been usual to summon you for the performance of your Legislative duties ; and I feel satisfaction in recurring to you for your advice and assistance.

"When last I met you, I ventured to express a hope that the Mutiny in India might, by the blessing of God, be the means of strengthening British authority in that part of the Empire : We may now rejoice in the confident belief that this hope will be speedily realized, and you will, I know, heartily join with me in the expression of fervent gratitude for the victories with which it has pleased Providence to bless Her Majesty's Arms.

"It is, I regret to say, impossible to refer to the past year as one of commercial prosperity : The demand for our Staple Exports has not as yet recovered from the effects of the disasters which recently disturbed the trade of the world ; but it is gratifying to observe some symptoms of improvement in our commercial prospects, and I trust that, ere long, renewed prosperity will reward the combined prudence and energy of our Merchants.

"I congratulate you on the abundance of the Crop of the past season ; and the general success which has attended those who have applied their capital and industry to the development of our Fisheries, affords to us another subject for sincere congratulation and thankfulness.

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