

Honorable JOSEPH POPE ;

I am commanded by His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor to acquaint you, that he hath so good an opinion of your integrity, diligence and sufficiency for executing the important office to which you have been elected, that His Excellency is perfectly satisfied with the choice which the House of Assembly have made, and doth allow and confirm you to be their Speaker.

And hereupon Mr. Speaker addressed His Excellency to the following effect :—

May it please your Excellency ;

As you have been pleased to approve of the choice of the House of Assembly, in appointing me to be their Speaker, it now becomes my duty, as such, to request of your Excellency, as the privilege of the House, that the Members thereof, during the Session, may be freed from arrest ; that they may have freedom of speech in their debates, and have free access to your Excellency on all occasions ; and I do also, in their name and behalf, beg leave to claim all their ancient rights and privileges.

The President of the Council then replied :

MR. SPEAKER ;

I am commanded by His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor to say, that His Excellency, being fully assured of the prudence, loyalty and good affection of the House of Assembly, most willingly grants to them, all their privileges, conformably to ancient usage, the laws of the land, and Her Majesty's Instructions.

The House being returned, Mr. Speaker reported, that when the House did attend His Excellency this day in the Council Chamber, His Excellency was pleased to make a Speech to both Houses of the Legislature, of which, Mr. Speaker said, he had, to prevent mistakes, obtained a copy, which was read by the Clerk, and is as followeth :—

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

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

I have a sincere gratification in again meeting the Houses of Legislature, fully convinced that they will zealously unite with me for the great object of advancing the general interests of this Island. I avail myself of this occasion to assure you that I shall warmly support all measures based upon the constitutional principles of the Empire ; and I ardently offer to your notice the infinite importance of using every endeavor to promote the diffusion of Religious and Civil Instruction amongst the poorer classes.

I wish to bring before your attention the Laws relating to the Repairs of the Roads and Bridges in this Colony ; with a most liberal expenditure annually upon them, they do not seem to be in that good condition which the people have a right to expect, and so especially necessary to the pursuits of the Agriculturists, to whose industry and welfare this Colony must look for its advancement. I hold this subject to be worthy of your careful examination in all its relations.

I think the public would derive a benefit from a Revision of the Laws regulating the Small Debt Courts.

I would also suggest the advantage of assimilating the Laws between Debtor and Creditor, as far as circumstances will permit, to those in force in Great Britain.

The facility with which Marriage Licenses can be legally obtained, has led to some extremely improper practice, and I feel it my duty to ask your consideration of the laws upon this subject.

The operation of the Assant and Battery Court seems not sufficiently efficacious ; some offenders have escaped punishment, solely from the delays necessarily occurring under the construction of this Court. I recommend the adoption of a more summary method of adjudicating the minor cases of offence.

I had hoped to have been in possession of such information as would have enabled me to have placed before your notice the possible advantage of giving encouragement to a Fishery, proposed to be established upon a large scale in this Island ; and although events of, I trust, only a temporary nature, have interfered to prevent me, yet I feel that I may express the anxiety which I entertain upon this subject, fully satisfied that the Colony in general, but the Agricultural interest in particular, will derive incalculable benefit from such an Establishment. I would here call your attention to the well-founded complaints which are annually made by the Inhabitants, of the encroachments upon our shores by the American fishing vessels, in the hope that you will be able to devise some effectual means of compelling them to regard the limits laid down by the Treaty.

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

The Public Accounts shall be laid before you without delay.

In the Impost Duties, a deficiency will be found, but by no means so extensive as might reasonably have been expected under the recent general depression of Trade ; in the Imperial Duties, there will, however, be found an increase, nearly if not quite equal to the loss upon the Impost Duties, independently of any Duties that may arise from goods now in the Bonded Warehouse.

The Imperial Government having, with an enlightened liberality and consideration of the Colonies, materially altered the Duties upon Foreign Articles, (the papers relating to which shall, at an early moment, be laid before you,) it will be necessary to reconsider the Revenue Laws of this Colony.

I rely with confidence upon you for the Supplies necessary for the Public Service.

Amongst other papers which I shall lay before you, there will be some relating to a circumstance that occurred about the termination of the last Session, involving the confidence that should exist between the Executive and the House of Assembly : this subject will, I am satisfied, receive every proper attention.

*Mr. President, and Hon. Gentlemen of the Legislative Council :*

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

Be pleased to accept the assurance of the confidence I place in the deliberation which you may feel it right to extend to my suggestions, and other communications which it will be expedient to make by means of Message ; and I trust that you will also believe me to be most anxious to co-operate with you for the prosperity of the Colony.

The House then proceeded to the choice of Officers, and thereupon—

*Resolved,* That Mr. William Cullen be re-appointed and re-sworn to the office of Clerk of the House of Assembly—and he took the usual Oaths accordingly.

*Resolved,* That Mr. John Macneill be Clerk Assistant to the House—and he took the Oaths and his seat.