

3rd January, 1840.

FIFTH SESSION, SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY, 3rd VICTORIA.

By regulations prescribed by Her Majesty's Government, the House must be sensible that it is my duty rigidly to abide—and it will consequently be perceived, that had the Poor Bill, assent up towards the conclusion of the late Session, been fully adopted by the Council, it could not possibly have received my assent.

I mention this to prevent misconception, and to obviate any future misunderstanding.

In an Address from the House of Assembly to Her Majesty, passed at the close of that Session, the subject of the last Contingency Bill is discussed at some length. As considerable time must elapse before any answer can be received, I would venture to suggest, without at all anticipating what the answer may be, that a Bill embracing such items as were originally undisputed, might, in consideration of the painful position of various claimants, be at once advantageously prepared.

I have formerly laid before you statements of the defective condition of the Building in which we are now assembled. I shall transmit to you the report of a Survey thereupon just made by my direction, to which I beg to call your particular attention.

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

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

I shall have the pleasure of transmitting to you, as soon as printed, a Report from the Geological Surveyor, containing much interesting information. He will be prepared to pursue his arduous and important labour at the earliest practicable period.

I have received a Despatch from Lord John Russell announcing that it is no longer desired that measures for the alienation of the Crown Territory should be delayed.

I shall therefore supply you with copies of correspondence on this head, which, with the documents already in your possession, and your own local knowledge, will, I hope, enable you to frame an act suited in every particular to the exigencies of the Colony.

I invite your early attention to this, because as the Bill will probably require a suspending clause, procrastination may occasion the loss of the fine season to applicants for Grants of Land.

The subject of a Road Bill will, I presume, occupy your deliberations.

The benefits arising from good Roads are so well known that observations respecting them would be trite and uninteresting, but it appears to me that while pursuing so useful an object, we should carefully avoid the evils which would inevitably result from any heavy accumulation of public debt.

I have heretofore recommended some points which I still believe to be worthy of your consideration. Upon them and others I shall always be happy to afford such information as I may possess; and to assist, as far as my humble means permit, your efforts for the general good.

The House of Assembly having withdrawn, His Excellency was pleased to retire.

Ordered, that the Honorable Messrs. Simms, Spearman, and Thomas, be a Select Committee to draft an Address to the Governor in answer to His Excellency's Speech.

The Honorable Mr. Secretary Crowdy laid before the Council, by direction of the Governor, the following Extract of a Despatch from His Excellency to the Secretary of State for the Colonies of the 9th December, 1839, No. 64, with reference to an Address of the House of Assembly to Her Majesty, of the 10th October, 1839:—

“ With regard to what is advanced respecting the conduct of the Council, I may observe that that body has not at present the means, supposing it to have the inclination, to make explanations relating to its Legislative decisions; but the General Assembly will be again in Session on the 3d of January, and I shall lose no time in transmitting any Address or Remarks which the Council may think fit to make, or in acquainting Your Lordship that none will be made.”

Committee appointed to draft address to the Governor in reply to his Speech.

Mr. Secretary Crowdy presents extract of a Despatch from the Governor to the Secretary of State on the subject of an address of the House of Assembly to Her Majesty.

The extract.