

provinces, was expected to be discussed, in both houses, in all its bearings; and the state of the province, of the administration, of its revenues, and its commercial relations, were objects that all required ample consideration, and, in most instances, measures of redress, regulation, correction or improvement. The pecuniary difficulties that had arisen, and been felt, through every branch of the public service, by the differences between the governor and the assembly, with respect to the mode of granting the civil list, required at least temporary, if not permanent, relief and arrangement; and a large amount of public business had accumulated by the regular process of parliamentary proceedings having, in former sessions, been suspended, interrupted, or curtailed, by the discussions of constitutional questions, and matters relative to privileges, principles, and rights, which had occupied a very large proportion of the time and attention of all the three branches of the legislature of late years, during the generally short periods for which the parliament had sat in Quebec. The time when this session commenced was rather late in the season; and a number of members rather more than usual at the opening of a session, formed a House of Assembly,* on Friday the 10th of January.

Their first measure was, of course, to choose a speaker, the Hon. L. J. Papineau, who had, for a considerable time, filled the chair of the house, with the utmost ability, and with the esteem and respect of all parties, having been appointed as one of the commissioners of the province, to convey to England, the petitions from all parts of the country, which had, during the preceding months, been prepared and signed, against the intended union.

Louis Bourdages, Denis Benjamin Viger, and Thomas Taschereau, Esquires, were respectively proposed as speakers, and the question being put separately as to each, passed in the negative; Joseph Remi Vallières de St. Real, was then unanimously called upon by the House to take the chair, to which he was forthwith conducted, and, in a neat speech of a few words, expressed himself truly sensible of the high honour the house had conferred on him.

The house then, adjourned, and, on the following day, their attendance having been required by His Excellency the governor in chief in the Legislative Council chamber, after His

**The members of the Assembly present, were, Messrs. Taschereau, Taché, Robitaille, Paré, Davidson, Louis Lagucux, Bourdages, Proulx, Dessaulles, Franchère, D. B. Viger, Lambert Dumont, Augustin Perrault, Joseph Perrault, Heney, Rochon, Deligny, Ogden, Arcand, Langwin, Neilson, Clout, Valfrès de St. Real, Stuart, Belanger, McCallum, Etienne C. Lagucux, Pand, and Quirouet.—29.*