

37. An Act to reduce into one Act the several Statutes of this Province respecting the election of Members of the House of Assembly and the qualification of Voters and Candidates at such Elections, and also to provide against fraud in obtaining qualifications to vote at Elections.

And His Excellency was pleased to reserve the following Bill for the consideration of His Majesty's pleasure:—

An Act to amend and make permanent a certain Act of the Parliament of this Province passed in the fifty-ninth year of the reign of His late Majesty King George the Third, entitled "An Act to repeal the several laws now in force relative to levying and collecting rates and assessments in this Province, and further to provide for the more equal and general assessment of lands and other ratable property throughout this Province, and to render more effectual the several laws of this Province imposing rates and assessments by providing under certain restrictions for the levying such rates and assessments by the sale of a portion of the lands on which the same are charged.

After which His Excellency was pleased to address the two Houses of the Legislature in the following words:—

Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,—The conclusion of the public business, which is now disposed of by your unremitted attention, enables me to dispense with your further attendance in Provincial Parliament, but I cannot put an end to this Session without assuring you how fully sensible I am of the judgment and temper which have governed your counsels and given efficacy to your various and extensive labours.

The united representations which you have addressed to your Sovereign on matters of no ordinary importance to the interests of your country afford a gratifying proof of your cordial and zealous co-operation in the prosecution of your legislative duties.

You are sufficiently aware that the measure of success which may attend your Petitions must be governed by a view of various and perhaps conflicting interests, but it will be no less agreeable to your Sovereign that it must be satisfactory to the people of this Province to observe the vigilant attention with which you have regarded every question that can effect the welfare or security of your country.

Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,—I thank you in His Majesty's name for the supplies which you have granted me for the ordinary exigencies of the year, and for the prudence you have manifested in guarding against temporary inconvenience to the public service by authorizing a loan in anticipation of the payments expected from Quebec, and you may be assured that the repeated testimonies which I have received of your confidence and support shall continue to be met on my part with a disposition to justify your reliance by a regular and economical administration of the revenue.

Honorable Gentlemen and Gentlemen,—I am happy to concur with you in affording countenance and support to the first efforts of a spirit of enterprise which has been directed to the improvement of our internal navigation, and which affords the most pleasing and convincing proof of increasing intelligence and wealth.

The measures by which you propose to render effectual the Acts formerly passed, for subjecting all the granted lands in this Province to a moderate but indiscriminating assessment, have the decided concurrence of my own judgment, and I have reason to believe they will be found perfectly to accord with the opinion of His Majesty's Government.