

# COUNCIL CHAMBER,

**THURSDAY, March 20, 1828.**

In pursuance of the foregoing Proclamation His Majesty's Council met.

**PRESENT.**

The Hon. *George Wright*, President;

Honorables { *William Pleace,*  
*Ambrose Lane,*  
*Thos. H. Haviland,*  
*Charles Worrell.*

**THE** HIS Excellency the Lieut. Governor having come to the Council Chamber, and being seated, the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod received his Excellency's commands to inform the House of Assembly, "that it is his Excellency's pleasure that they do attend him in the Council Chamber instantler;"—who being come, his Excellency was then pleased to open the Session with the following Speech:—

*"Mr. President, and Gentlemen of His Majesty's Council:*

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

"It affords me great pleasure in meeting you in General Assembly to have it in my power to congratulate you on the abundance of the late harvest, and the plenty which so generally abounds; and although there appears to have been a falling off in the Trade of the Island (compared with that of last year), arising, chiefly, from the great depression in a leading branch of our Exports, yet the revival of Trade and Manufactures in the Mother Country, and the re-establishment of Mercantile credit, it may be reasonably hoped, will, at no distant period, produce a favourable change in the Trade of the Colony; nor is it unreasonable to expect that the extension of the benefits of a Free Port to Charlotte-Town, which the Lords Committee of Trade have been pleased to recommend to His Majesty, may open new and beneficial sources of commerce for our Colonial industry and enterprize.

"Our agricultural improvement has, however, far exceeded that of any former period, both as regards the proper cultivation of our excellent soil, the improvement of our horses, cattle, and farming stock of every description, and likewise in other Branches of our Domestic Industry.

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

"I shall direct the Public Accounts to be laid before you, for your inspection, and I trust you will find the sums granted in the last Session to have been carefully applied to the purposes contemplated; and I rely with undiminished confidence in your making the necessary provision for the services of the present year.

*"Mr. President, and Gentlemen of His Majesty's Council:*

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

"Several matters of Public interest have occurred since the last meeting of the Legislature which I shall feel it my duty to communicate to you by message, and which course I shall also take with other subjects which may present themselves during the Session that may require your consideration.

"Being fully sensible, from experience, how important it is to the welfare of the Colony that a friendly and confidential intercourse should at all