

UPPER CANADA.

YORK 11th Nov. 1823.

At half-past two o'clock this day, His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, proceeded in his usual state to the Legislative Council Chamber, when being seated on the Throne, and the House of Assembly being present at the bar, was pleased to open the Session with the following SPEECH:—

*Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council,*

*and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,*

I have much satisfaction in meeting you at a period in which nothing in the situation of Foreign Affairs appears likely to disturb the peace of the United Empire;—when a spirit of contented industry and obedience to the Laws prevail generally among the People of this Colony, and the depression of value in the chief productions of the Country, consequent upon the termination of the War, is gradually diminishing.

On the review of our internal condition, I am sensible that much benefit has attended the wise and temperate manner in which those powers and privileges have been exercised, which are vested by the Constitution in this great Council of the Province;

*Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,*

I have ordered the proper Officer to lay before you the Public Accounts, and the Estimates for the ensuing year; and I rely on your wisdom and just liberality to make such provision as shall be requisite for the proper support of His Majesty's Government.

I am not at present enabled to inform you, in what manner the recent measures of the Imperial Parliament, for the General Regulation of the Colonial Trade, have affected that portion of our Revenue which is collected at the port of Québec; but a change, tending to remove restrictions upon Commerce, may be expected naturally to have produced a result beneficial to our finances. Notwithstanding the economy which you have practised, and to which I have always been desirous to give effect, I regret that the Provincial Treasury is not in a situation that will enable you to afford material aid to the variety of Public Objects which it is desirable to promote; but I trust that at no very distant period, the resources of this Colony, will, without any severe additional burthens on the people, rise so far above the ordinary demands, that it will be in the power of the Legislature to give an effectual impulse to Public Improvement.

*Honourable Gentlemen, and Gentlemen,*

Since the close of the last Session, the Arbitrators appointed under the General Trade Act, have reported their decision on the Arrears of Revenue due to Upper Canada, from the Sister Colony. The amount awarded has not yet been paid into the Treasury of this Province, but I am assured that no material delay is to be apprehended.

You will doubtless direct your attention to such Provincial Laws as are about to expire; of these, the enactment for regulating our Commercial Intercourse with the United States of America, will appear of most immediate importance, and to require more than ordinary consideration, in order that its provisions may be rendered consistent with the spirit of the Acts which have been recently passed by the Imperial