

While we have to regret the revolutionary spirit which has driven a neighbouring Colony into rebellion, and brought upon it the horrors of a civil war, the loyalty and attachment to the Throne and government of the mother country, which have always been conspicuous in the inhabitants of this Island, afford a bright and pleasing contrast.

The late abundant harvest with which it has pleased the Almighty to bless the labors of the agriculturist, while it enables the poorer classes to look forward without dread to the severe season, in the confidence of being secure from want, calls for the heartfelt gratitude of the whole community.

On the visits which I considered it my duty to make to all parts of the Island, as soon as was practicable after assuming the government, I was highly gratified to observe in its agricultural properties, and the progress that had already taken place in their development, the germ, which, aided by due enterprise and industry, it is not difficult to foresee, must ripen into great future prosperity.

While the history of the world teaches the necessity of Education to the advancement of mankind, the provision you have made for the instruction of youth throughout the Colony, proclaims that you are fully aware of this great truth; and I should be wanting in what is so justly due to you, were I not to congratulate you on the exertions you have made to promote this primary and most essential object of all civilized society.

I regret that the Question of Escheat still continues a subject of agitation; but I trust the good sense of the people will induce them to abandon an expectation which, I firmly and sincerely believe, can never be realized.

I would strongly recommend to your consideration the advantages which would arise from an improved system of Prison Discipline in the internal regulation of the different Jails throughout the Island. To aid your deliberations upon this important subject, I will cause to be laid before you a mass of valuable information, which has been transmitted to me by Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies.

I shall also have to bring under your consideration other matters of interest to the well being of the Colony. These, with any other subjects of consequence, which may occur, I will communicate to you by Message.

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

I shall cause the proper officer to lay before you the Public Accounts for the past year. I shall also cause the Estimates for the current year to be submitted to you, relying upon your liberality to make such provision for the Public Service as the exigencies of the Government may require.

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

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

I invite you to the most open and unreserved communication with me on all points wherein the good of Her Majesty's subjects under this Government is concerned. I am sincerely desirous of co-operating with you in every measure calculated to promote the public welfare, and to possess your confidence and support.

I trust the unanimity which has hitherto prevailed between both branches of the Legislature may continue; and that they may be, as heretofore, distinguished for the liberality of their proceedings and their attachment to Her Majesty's Person and Government.

The Speech being ended, His Excellency was pleased to retire, and the House of Assembly having withdrawn, the President reported His Excellency's Speech, which being read by the Clerk—

*Resolved*, That an humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, to return the thanks of the House, for his Speech delivered this day:

*Ordered*, That Mr. Haviland, Mr. Attorney General and Mr. Goodman be a Committee to prepare a Draft, pursuant to the above Resolution.