

Fraser, John Allen, Stair Agnew, John Dow, Elijah Miles, William Wilnot, and Harry Peters, who took their seats.

Xenophon Jouett, Esquire, Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, delivers the following Message:---

“ His Honor the PRESIDENT commands the attendance of this Honorable House immediately in the Council Chamber.”

The House accordingly attended His Honor the PRESIDENT in the Council Chamber when the Honorable *Jonathan Bliss*, Esquire, Chief Justice, spoke as follows, to wit:---

“ *Gentlemen of the Council, and
Gentlemen of the Assembly,*

“ I am commanded by His Honor the PRESIDENT to acquaint you that he doth not think fit to declare the causes of calling this General Assembly till there shall be a Speaker of the House of Assembly.

“ It is therefore His Honor’s pleasure, that you Gentlemen of the Assembly, do immediately repair to the place where the Assembly usually sit, and there choose a fit Person to be your Speaker, and that you present the Person chosen to His Honor here to-morrow at 12 o’Clock.”

The House having returned, Captain *Stair Agnew*, a member for York, rose and addressing himself to the Clerk, said,

“ Mr. *Wetmore*, His Honor the PRESIDENT, having directed the House to proceed immediately to the choice of a Speaker, I would on this occasion remark that the Speaker of the late House had hardly made his appearance on the floor of it, before he put on the character of an old member, and that the same accomplished understanding accompanied him to the Chair. Mr. *Robinson* then was an exception to the rule I would lay down for myself, that is, that the Speaker of the House ought to be (whenever a proper choice can be made) a professional man. So intimately connected are our political and civil constitutions, that were it otherwise, the House might be embarrassed in the management of the forms of its procedure.---The Speaker, Sir, ought to be a man of integrity, of talents, and of private independence of fortune, and with these impressions I move, that, *William Botsford*, Esquire, be Speaker of this House.”

Which motion being seconded by Mr. *P. Fraser*, and the House appearing to be unanimous, Mr. *Botsford* was taken from his seat and conducted to the Chair, and when on the step, he expressed “ the high sense he entertained of the confidence reposed in him by the House, but trusted, that upon further consideration, they would elect a Member of more experience and ability;” but the House persisting in their choice, Mr. *Botsford* claimed their indulgence and support, submitted himself to their command, and took the Chair *nem. con.*

The House adjourned until to-morrow at 11 o’Clock.

WEDNESDAY the 5th day of FEBRUARY, 1817.

The House met pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker elect took the Chair.

On motion ordered that *John Ward*, and *Thomas Millidge*, two of the members returned for the County of Saint John. *Stephen Humbert*, a member returned for the City of Saint John. *Richard Simonds*, a member returned for the County of Northumberland, and *Colin Campbell*, a member returned for the County of Charlotte, now attending and praying to be admitted to their seats (when duly qualified by taking the oaths required) be admitted to take their seats accordingly: and that Mr. *Pagan* and Mr. *Smith* attend the Commission-