

lency, that I very sensibly feel the weight and importance of those obligations which devolve on me in consequence of this appointment. Nevertheless, your Excellency may fully rely, that in the situation in which I am now placed, every exertion in my power shall be used in order to promote the best interests and prosperity of this Province, the honour of His Majesty's Government, and the harmony of your Excellency's administration.

I beg further to observe to your Excellency, that this being the first meeting of the present House of Assembly, a duty devolves on me, in their name, and on behalf of His Majesty's faithful Commons of this Province, most respectfully to request your Excellency to grant, that the Members of the present Colonial Parliament, when in Session, may be free from molestation—that they may enjoy the freedom of speech in all their debates—that they may possess the exclusive right of judging of the conduct and qualifications of their own members, and, if necessary, of prescribing such penalties as may be in accordance with the established rules and practice of Parliament—and likewise that they may have free access to your Excellency whenever their duty and the public welfare requires it. These and all other rights and privileges, whether ancient or modern, which the British Constitution happily secures to the popular branch of the Legislature, I have humbly to beg of your Excellency that the same may be continued and confirmed to the present House of Assembly."

The President of his Majesty's Council then replied—

I am commanded by His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor to say, that His Excellency, being fully assured of the prudence, loyalty and good affection of the House of Assembly, does most willingly grant to them all their privileges, in as full a manner as they have been at any time granted by His Excellency, or any former Governor of this Island."

The House having returned, Mr. Speaker reported, that when the House attended His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor this day in the Council Chamber, His Excellency was pleased to deliver a Speech to both Houses of the Legislature, of which, to prevent mistakes, he had procured a copy; and he handed it in at the Clerk's Table, where it was read, and is as followeth:—

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

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

His Majesty having been graciously pleased to signify His Royal assent to the Bill, limiting the duration of the Legislative Assembly of this Island

to Four years, I caused the late Colonial Parliament to be dissolved, directing Writs to be issued for the election of a new General Assembly, and I have now much satisfaction in meeting you in your Legislative capacity.

In a retrospect of the past year, I have reason to congratulate you upon the cheering prospect afforded by the increased developement of our internal resources.

Deeply interested in the agricultural prosperity of the Colony, I refer with pleasure to the progressive improvement which this essential branch of our national advancement continues to exhibit.

Under the blessing of Providence, the late Harvest has proved most productive; and whilst the labour of the husbandman has been thus rewarded with an abundant increase, it will afford a powerful stimulus to a perseverance in those habits of active industry, which cannot fail in producing the happiest results.

It is with no less satisfaction that I am enabled to state, that the Revenue of the last year shews an increase over that of the preceding one; and although the expenditure for the same period has been considerable, arising principally from the large sums required for the completion of the Public Buildings and Wharves, and in the establishment of an imperfect system of Quarantine, incident to our local situation, at a time when our sister Provinces were visited with that awful disease, the Asiatic Cholera, I have nevertheless every confidence that, by a due regard to economy in the estimates of the current year, the temporary inconvenience which has been consequently occasioned will be speedily remedied.

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

I shall take an early opportunity of directing the Public Accounts to be laid before you; and I rely upon your liberality and discretion to make such provision for the services of the year as the exigencies of the Government may require.

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

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

I shall submit to your consideration, by Message, such matters of public interest as I may conceive necessary to the general welfare of the Colony.

In leaving you to the discharge of your important duties, I have full confidence that your deliberations will be peculiarly directed to such measures as have for their object the public good; and you may depend on my ready co-operation in those views which may tend to promote the prosperity of the Colony and the comfort and happiness of the people.

The House then proceeded to the choice of Officers, and thereupon,