

Friday, 30th December, 1831.

SIR JOHN COLBORNE, K. C. B. *Lieutenant Governor.*

Ordered, that the House be put into a Committee of the whole on Monday next, to take the same into consideration.

The Honorable and Right Reverend Bishop MacDonell enters.

A Deputation from the Commons House of Assembly brought up a Bill entitled "An Act for the more equal distribution of the property of persons dying Intestate," to which they requested the concurrence of this House, and withdrew.

The said Bill was read, and it was—

Ordered, that the same be read a second time on Monday next, and—

Ordered that the Members in Town, be summoned to attend in their places on that day.

The Honorable Mr. Markland from the Select Committee, to whom was referred the Bill entitled "An Act to repeal part of An Act passed in the thirty third year of the reign of King George the Third, entitled 'An Act to fix the times and places of holding the Courts of General Quarter Sessions of the Peace, within the several Districts of this Province, and to authorise the holding of the Quarter Sessions of the Midland District, at Kingston and Bellville alternately,'" presented their report.

Ordered, that the Report be received,

The same was then read as follows:—

The Select Committee to whom was referred the Bill entitled "An Act to repeal part of an Act passed in the thirty third year of the reign of King George the Third, entitled 'An Act to fix the times and places of holding the Courts of General Quarter Sessions of the Peace, within the several Districts of this Province, and to authorise the holding of the Quarter Sessions, of the Midland District, at Kingston and Bellville alternately,'" beg leave to Report,—

That they first turned their attention to the consideration, whether it was a measure that could be held to come under the standing order of this Honorable House, which requires that to prevent surprise, no private Bill brought up to this House from the Assembly, after the thirtieth day of the Session, shall be proceeded in.

It, however, appears to Your Committee, that as the Law which is proposed to be repealed, changed the holding of the Courts of Quarter Sessions, from Kingston to Adolphustown, for the general convenience of the inhabitants resident in the adjoining parts of the Midland District, and as this measure professes to afford a similar public advantage, by fixing the place of holding the Courts at a point, which will accommodate the Western part of the District; better than the present site of the Court House, there can be no ground for considering it a measure of a private nature.

The next consideration to which your Committee adverted, relates to the 47th rule of Your Honorable House, requiring a notice of six months, before applications are made to the Legislature respecting any local measure.

It appears that the notice has been duly continued for four months, and had the Session of the Legislature commenced at the ordinary period, the full time would have elapsed long before its usual termination. Other measures, under similar circumstances, have been acted upon during the present Session, and whether a like course shall be pursued with this, will remain for the consideration of Your Honorable House.

In the enactments of the Bill, the attention of Your Committee was first called to the circumstance, that instead of declaring, as is usual, "That the clause of the Act now in force shall be so no longer, when the Lieutenant Governor, by proclamation, shall have made known that a Court House has been erected,—the Bill authorises the Lieutenant Governor to repeal the clause by proclamation, when he shall be so satisfied.

The next provision is to change the place of holding the Quarter Sessions and District Court, from Adolphustown to Bellville; on this subject, Your Committee have quite come to the conclusion, that when the separation of Prince Edward, from the Midland District, shall take place, there will be no further necessity for holding the Courts at Adolphustown, which will not be a convenient situation, for the inhabitants of the District so changed, to assemble at; and they have no doubt, that Bellville would be a more commodious and satisfactory place, in which opinion, as appears from documents that have been shewn them, both the Chairman of the Quarter Sessions and the Judge of the District Court, entirely concur.

The third and last provision of importance is, that a sum of Three hundred pounds shall be taken from the funds of the District, in aid of such contributions as may be made by the inhabitants of the County of Hastings, for the erection of a Court House.

A Member enters the House.

Intestate distribution Bill brought up from Assembly.

Read first time.

Members summoned.

Report of Select Committee on Midland District Quarter Sessions Bill, presented.

Read.

The Report.