

made from time to time for the attainment of an object of such paramount importance to the settlement and prosperity of the Province (amounting to no less a sum than One hundred thousand pounds since the year eighteen hundred and fifteen), that some radical defect exists in the system, the remedying of which, will, I confidently trust, be deemed of sufficient moment to merit your most serious consideration: It is to be feared that the same remark may be found applicable to the Bye Roads, notwithstanding the expenditure, within the same period, of the sum of about Fifty thousand pounds.

The Act for regulating the Statute labour, expiring this Session, I am convinced that it is quite unnecessary for me, in a matter of such importance to the Country, to call, in its renewal, your most mature and deliberate attention to the different interests of the Public.

I regret to state that that important source of our Commerce, as well as of our domestic comfort, (the Fisheries,) has of late become nearly a failure, particularly on the rivers—owing either to the insufficiency of the existing Laws for their protection, or the impunity with which those Laws are permitted to be transgressed. It is therefore desirable that measures should be adopted for the correction of this evil from whatever cause it may proceed.

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

I have directed the Treasurer's Accounts, and all the documents connected therewith to be immediately laid before you, from which it is gratifying to find, that there is a considerable improvement in the last year's Revenue compared with that of the former; yet it is to be regretted that those of both years leave a heavy deficiency to meet your Appropriations for the same period, which has already given rise to much inconvenience and obstruction to the Public Service, as well as loss to individuals, and must, I fear, for a time lead to still further evils.

I therefore feel it my duty to call your most serious attention thereto, relying upon your wisdom to provide such means for their removal, as your experience may suggest.

Since the close of the last Session, expences to some small extent have been incurred in various parts of the Province, by the Commissioners of the Boards of Health and other Authorities, in the establishment of sanitary precautions against the introduction of Cholera—those outlays for a purpose so incalculably important to the Community at large, will, I am convinced, be cheerfully provided for.

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

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

That we have hitherto remained untouched by that awful visitation, by which so many other lands have been filled with mourning and distress, ought, indeed, to awaken in our hearts, feelings of the deepest and most fervent gratitude towards that gracious Providence which has so mercifully spared us;—but it ought not to be forgotten that the day of our visitation may yet come—the disease still lurks in our neighbourhood, and although we must be sensible that we cannot depend upon any merely human means for our continued preservation from this dreadful malady, or for arresting its march, should it unfortunately break out, yet it would be presumptuous in us to neglect those precautions, and that preparation, which wisdom and experience recommend, and which, if they cannot avail to prevent its introduction, or its spread among us, may at least do much to mitigate its horrors.

I appeal with confidence to the humane feelings of this Legislature, in behalf of the poor and needy portion of the community, who are ever the greatest sufferers on such occasions. I am persuaded that you will see how necessary it is, on their account, that effective Boards of Health should be established in every populous neighbourhood, and enabled to meet with promptitude the first inroad of the disease.

The whole Country will doubtless regard it as one of the chief duties of the Legislature, at this time to provide, so far as they are able, against the danger which threatens all alike, and I rely upon your making such wise and cautious enactments as will oblige all to acknowledge that your duty has been done, whatever it may please Divine Providence to order for us.