

The House being returned, and Mr. Speaker having taken the Chair,

Mr. Speaker reported that the House had been in the Council Room, where his Excellency was pleased to approve of the choice the House had made of him to be their Speaker, and that he had spoken to the following effect:—

*May it please your Excellency,*

Your Excellency having been pleased to approve of the choice the House of Assembly have made of me to be their Speaker, it now becomes my duty, as such, in the name of the Representatives of His Majesty's loyal subjects, the people of Newfoundland, humbly to demand, that they may have freedom of speech in their debates—that their persons may be free from arrests—that they may enjoy all customary rights and privileges—and that whenever His Majesty's service and the interests of the Colony may require it, I, as their speaker, may have free access to your Excellency's person.

Mr. Speaker also reported, that His Excellency in reply had said—

*Mr. Speaker,*

I most cheerfully grant your request, conformably to the usage of the Imperial Parliament, the laws of the land, and the Royal Instructions.

After which,

Mr. Speaker said, His Excellency was pleased to make a speech, of which Mr. Speaker said he had obtained a copy, which he read to the House, and is as follows:—

*Mr. President and Gentlemen of His Majesty's Council, Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,*

The first General Assembly is now in full operation in the Island of Newfoundland, and I beg to offer you my sincere congratulations on so important an event, with my prayer that its establishment may be attended by every blessing, a virtuous and free people can hope for or deserve. And if anticipations of the future may be drawn from the conduct of the people of Newfoundland in the first exercise of the rights conferred upon them, there is every reason to trust that my wishes will not be disappointed.

The harmony, order and good-will that have been maintained in the course of the Elections are deserving of great praise; and I should not do justice to my feelings, or to the inhabitants of St. John's, were I not to make it known, that, although a very keen contest was carried on in this Town for eight days, in which nearly three thousand individuals had a right to vote, yet not one single police report resulted from it—an example which could be profitably followed in many older Governments; and I am persuaded it will be your anxious endeavour to persevere in that course which has been so happily begun.

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

The geographical division of the Island, made by His Majesty's Proclamation of the 26th July, has had the effect of excluding the inhabitants of certain places from any participation in the rights enjoyed by their fellow-countrymen. This defect in those instructions

can, with most propriety, be remedied by the Legislature, and I am to signify to you His Majesty's wish that such provision may be made by law as will embrace every part of the Colony within some one of the electoral districts into which the Island has been divided.

*Mr. President and Gentlemen of His Majesty's Council, Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,*

In a Colony that has been so long without any efficient laws to govern it, or any adequate mode of meeting by corresponding legal enactments, the varying change of circumstances which must arise in every country, you will be prepared to expect that a pressure of business will devolve upon you in every department of the Government, which will require your close and unremitting attention; your principal difficulty will be to decide to what point first to direct your attention, and to assist you in your deliberations, I shall cause to be laid before you in a few days a short account of the different Institutions connected with the Colony; and I beg to assure you that I shall never consider my time so well occupied as in facilitating your labours, and that I shall most cordially unite with you in every measure that may be conducive to the improvement and prosperity of this Island.

A temporary accommodation has been provided in which to hold your sittings; it does not afford all the conveniences I could have wished for, but I trust will be found to answer that purpose during the present session.

*Ordered,* that Mr. THOMAS, Mr. KENT, Mr. PACK, Mr. HOYLES, and Mr. BENNETT, be a Committee to prepare an Address in answer to His Excellency's speech.

On motion of Mr. HOYLES,

*Ordered,* that the Committee of Privileges do consist of the whole House.

Mr. BROWN moved that the House do come to the following resolution, viz.

*Resolved,*—That this House do now proceed to the election of its own Officers, viz. the Clerk, Sergeant-at-Arms and Messenger.

Mr. BENNETT moved an amendment to the foregoing resolution, as follows:—

Leave out the whole of the words in the said resolution from the word *Resolved*, and insert in place thereof the words following:—

“That the question of the appointment of the Officers of this House be referred to the Committee of Privileges.”

Which, being seconded and put, and the House dividing thereon, there appeared for the motion six, against it, four—

So it passed in the affirmative.

On motion of Mr. BROWN,

*Resolved,*—That the question of the appointment of the Officers of the House be considered in Committee of Privileges on Thursday next.

Then the House adjourned until to-morrow, at eleven of the Clock.