

JOURNAL

OF THE

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

OF

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

Third Session of the Eighteenth General Assembly.

TUESDAY, March 25, 1851.

THE House having, by several Proclamations, been prorogued until this day, then to meet for the dispatch of business:

And being met—

A Message from His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, by Henry Palmer, Esquire, Usher of the Black Rod:

Mr. Speaker;

His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor commands the immediate attendance of this Honorable House at the Bar of the Council Chamber.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker and the House went up to attend His Excellency in the Council Chamber—and being returned,

Mr. Speaker reported, that when the House did attend His Excellency this day in the Council Chamber, His Excellency was pleased to make a Speech to both Houses of the Legislature, of which Mr. Speaker said he had, to prevent mistakes, obtained a copy, which was read by the Clerk, and is as followeth:

Mr. President, and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council;

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

With as little delay as possible after my arrival, I have summoned you to meet, and to submit for your consideration matters of much importance, affecting the Government of this Colony, with the welfare and prosperity of its inhabitants.

Your late Lieutenant Governor, in the speech with which he closed the Session, on the First of May, last year, stated "that the House of Assembly had de-

clined to proceed with the local business of the Colony, and with the consideration of those important subjects affecting the interests of the North American Colonies to which he had directed their attention." I trust the Assembly will take an early opportunity to consider those subjects, and remedy the omissions of the last Session.

The late Lieutenant Governor, on the same occasion, adverted to the passing of a Bill, to which, under ordinary circumstances, he would have hesitated to give his assent; but he stated also, that the consideration of subjecting the Colony to a heavy pecuniary loss, and a corresponding increase of the Public debt, induced him to sanction a Bill which he considered objectionable both in principle and practice. It was objectionable, as subjoining appropriation clauses to a Bill for raising a Revenue—clauses which, while they provided for the contingent expenses of the Legislature, and the payment of the allowances to Members of the Assembly, leave wholly unnoticed many of the most essential wants of the Colony—among others, the funds necessary for the support of the Jails, the maintenance of the prisoners, and, what was of paramount importance to the public, their safe custody.

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

On assuming the Government of this Colony, I am anxious to enter into no unnecessary comments on the grounds which may have actuated the Assembly in framing this Bill, with which, indeed, I can but be partially acquainted. But it is right I should state, that I have received instructions, not to assent to another Bill open to the same objections; as, therefore, the Act in question expires on the First of May, I earnestly call your attention to its omissions and defects, and I cannot doubt that you will, in a distinct Bill, appropriate the Revenue to its just and legitimate objects.