

May it please your Excellency ;

According to Law the Legislative Assembly have proceeded to the Election of a Speaker ; I am the person upon whom their choice has fallen.

If in the Execution of the important duties of my Station I should at any time fall into error, I intreat that the fault may be imputed to me, and not to the Assembly, whose Servant I have the honor to be ; and that they may be the better enabled to discharge their duty to Her Majesty and their country, I do in their name and on their behalf, by humble Petition, lay claim to all their Rights and Privileges, particularly that they may have liberty of Speech for the better management of their debates ; access to your Excellency's person on all seasonable occasions, and that their proceedings may receive from your Excellency the most favorable interpretation.

Mr. Speaker claims Privileges of the Assembly.

Then the Honorable Speaker of the Legislative Council said :

His Excellency, the Governor General, fully confides in the duty and attachment of the Assembly to Her Majesty's Person and Government, and not doubting that their proceedings will be conducted with wisdom, temper, and prudence, he grants, and upon all occasions will recognize and allow their Constitutional Privileges.

Privileges obtained.

I am commanded also to assure you that the Assembly shall have ready access to His Excellency upon all seasonable occasions, and that their proceedings as well as your words and actions will constantly receive from Him the most favorable construction.

The House being returned.

Mr. Speaker reported that the Assembly had been in the Legislative Council Chamber, and that he had informed His Excellency that the choice of Speaker had fallen upon him, and also that he had, in their name, and on their behalf, by humble Petition to His Excellency, laid claim to all their Rights and Privileges, that they may enjoy freedom of speech in their debates, and have access to His Excellency's person as occasion shall require, and that all their proceedings may receive from His Excellency the most favorable construction ; to which His Excellency had been pleased to say that he readily and willingly granted and allowed them all their Privileges, in as full and ample a manner as they have ever heretofore been granted, as well as ready access to His Excellency on all seasonable occasions, and that their proceedings as well as their words and actions will constantly receive from him the most favorable construction.

Mr. Speaker reports having waited upon His Excellency, &c.

*Ordered*—That Mr. Attorney General *Draper* have leave to bring in a Bill to require Justices of the Peace to make returns of convictions and fines.

Justices' Returns Bill read.

He accordingly presented the said Bill to the House, and the same was received and read for the first time.

*Ordered*—That the said Bill be read a second time on this day three weeks.

A Petition of *T. Parker* and others of the county of *Hastings* in the District of *Victoria*, was presented to the House by Sir *Allan McNab* and the same was received and read, setting forth:

Hastings Election petition.

That according to previous notice given by an advertisement, an Election was held in the Town of *Belleville*, in the County of *Hastings*, in the Province of *Canada*, on *Monday*, the 22d day of *March* last, and the