

## S P E E C H :

*Mr. President and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council :*

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

My object in summoning you at this unusual period of the year was, that an endeavour might be made to obtain some solution of the long agitated Land Question.

Circumstances have, however, occurred, which will prevent your deliberations at the present time.

I received by the last Mail a Despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, informing me that the Royal assent had been given to "the Act to change the constitution of the Legislative Council by rendering the same Elective."

From Despatches which had passed between His Grace the Duke of Newcastle and myself on the subject of an objection raised by His Grace to a clause in this Act, it was apprehended that Her Majesty's assent would not be given to the Act until that clause had been amended by the Legislature.

The confirmation of the Act leaves me no alternative but immediately to declare it to be in force, and a Proclamation to that effect will be issued without delay.

I will cause Papers on the subject to be at once made public.

*Mr. President and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council :*

You have for many years discharged with zeal and attention the duties which have devolved upon you. You are now about to be dissolved, and a Council will be elected in your room.

In meeting you for the last time I have to express my thanks for the uniform support and co-operation you have afforded me in carrying out these measures of public usefulness which have been matured during your existence as a branch of the Legislature.

*Mr. President and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council :*

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

It is impossible for me at present to have recourse to your assistance and advice. I therefore release you from further attendance here.