

On motion, the House then resolved itself into a Committee of the whole House, on the consideration of the amendments proposed by the Council to the Bill to regulate the building of houses in Water-street, in the town of St. John's.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. HOOPER took the Chair of the Committee.

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

The Chairman reported from the Committee,

that they had made some progress in the business to them referred, and that they were of opinion a conference should be asked with the Legislative Council on the subject of the said amendments, and thereupon

Resolved,—That a Conference by Committee be asked with the Council, on the subject of the said amendments, and that the Clerk do request the same.

Then the House adjourned until to-morrow at twelve of the clock.

TUESDAY, JULY 30, 1833.

ON motion of Mr. KOUGH,

Resolved,—That a Committee be appointed to wait on His Excellency the Governor, and respectfully request that his Excellency would be pleased to direct that the proper Officer may take immediate measures for carrying into effect the clauses and the Imperial Act, 1st Geo. IV., chap. 51, so far as they relate to buildings of wood being erected between Water-street and Duckworth-street, in the town of St. John's, and which manifestly endanger the safety of the said town.

Ordered,—That Mr. KOUGH, Mr. KENT, Mr. HOYLES and Mr. THOMAS be a Committee for the above purpose.

A Message from the Council, by Mr. AYRE,
Mr. Speaker,

The Legislative Council agree to the Conference asked by the House of Assembly, on the subject of the amendments to the Bill for regulating the building of houses in Water-street, in the town of St. John's, and have appointed two managers to meet the managers on the part of the House, in the Committee-room, immediately.

And then the Messenger withdrew.

Resolved,—That Mr. THOMAS, Mr. KOUGH, Mr. KENT and Mr. CARTER do manage the said Conference.

On motion of Mr. THOMAS,

Resolved,—That the Committee appointed to manage the said Conference with the Council, be instructed to state to the Committee of the Council, that the House of Assembly cannot agree to the first amendment proposed by the Council, because, being an Act having general operation, it would be found most oppressive on poor industrious persons owning premises on the north side of Water-street, who, in case of any future accident by fire, would neither be able to rebuild their houses of stone, nor yet tenants to rebuild of such material. Of this description are three-fourths of the owners of property on the north side of Water-street, between Patrick Gleeson's and Mrs. Deerin's premises, (adjoining James Stewart & Co.) both inclusive;—this law would therefore, be ruinous to a great many poor inhabitants of the town of St. John's, whose whole property is vested in their buildings. The House are of opinion that the law as proposed by them would

afford ample security to the town, for, as under the Act for establishing Fire Companies, these Companies are now organizing, and have ordered two new Engines, of great power, from England, the Assembly feel confident, that with such additional strength and organization, not more than three or four houses could, in future, be destroyed by fire, in such parts of the town as may be rebuilt according to the provisions of the Bill which has passed the lower House,—whereas, if the amendment be persisted in, it would be the means of the Bill being entirely lost, as its operation would ruin a large portion of the middle classes in the town of St. John's, in the event of another fire taking place. That the House cannot agree to the second amendment, for the reasons above assigned. The House conceiving that iron shutters being provided for windows, and doors being covered with iron or tin, is all that is necessary, they cannot, therefore, agree to the fifth amendment. The House believing that it is customary in Great Britain, when streets are required by Act of Parliament to be built agreeably to any particular plan or of any particular material, to compel all landlords not inclined to build, or not having the means to build on their own property, to give leases for sixty and even ninety years, to tenants who expend large sums of money for the uniformity of such streets, the Assembly therefore feel, that the obliging landlords to grant short leases for forty years to tenants building of stone, would be but a small compensation for such outlay of capital, and by no means commensurate with the advantage derived by the landlords in receiving back good, staunch, and secure buildings at the expiration of such leases, in place of vacant pieces of ground which have usually been surrendered unimproved at the end or earlier termination of the term granted. That the House cannot agree to the seventh amendment, as it is directly repugnant to the Imperial Act 1st, Geo. IV, chap. 51, which allows all parts of Water-street, not already widened, to be of the width of forty feet when built of stone, as for instance, that part of Water-street west of Codner & Jennings's premises. That the House cannot agree to the ninth amendment, expunging the ninth section of the Bill, as the security therein mentioned will be required, if the north side of the street be built of wood.

And the names of the Managers being called over, they went to the Conference.