

His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor having come to the Council Chamber, and being seated, the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod received His Excellency's commands to inform the House of Assembly—that it is His Excellency's pleasure, they do attend him in the Council Chamber instanter;

The House of Assembly, with their Speaker, having attended accordingly—His Excellency was pleased to open the Session with the following

### SPEECH:

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

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

It affords me great satisfaction to meet you, assembled as you now are for the discharge of your important duties.

In alluding to those subjects to which I would more particularly direct your attention, I am persuaded that you will, on entering on their consideration, do so with the sole desire to further the best interests of this Colony.

I would direct your attention to the necessity which exists for perfecting the present system of Education throughout the Island; and more particularly would I invite you to consider the propriety of re-constructing the arrangements on which the Central Academy is now based, in order that the increasing requirements for instruction in the higher branches of learning may be met, and the usefulness of that establishment augmented.

The arrangement under which the Public Roads, Bridges, and Wharves are at present maintained and repaired, is somewhat irregular and unsatisfactory. This subject is well worthy of your notice, so that you may concert and mature a more efficacious method.

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

The Address which, last Session, you submitted to the Crown, praying that a Commission be appointed to investigate and settle the whole question of Land Tenures, was graciously received by Her Majesty. A considerable delay has occurred at home in arranging the preliminaries of the Commission, but that delay was unavoidable. A very short time will now suffice to complete the formation of a Commission, from the labors of which I anticipate the best results.

I have directed the Accounts of the last year, and the Estimates for the present, to be laid before you. These have been prepared with every attention and economy, and with a due regard to the efficient performance of the public service.

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

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

I rejoice to be able to announce to you that the Revenue, at the termination of the financial year, exhibits a very satisfactory appearance; still, as the public debt is considerable, it will be your duty to use your best endeavor to maintain, and, if possible, augment the income of the Island.