

28th January, 1858.

HIS EXCELLENCY SIR ALEXANDER BANNERMAN, KNIGHT, Governor.

cessary postponement of several important matters; among others was an Address of the House of Assembly in 1855, recommending the revision and consolidation of the Laws of this Colony, and a simplification of the mode of procedure in the Superior Courts thereof. I have deemed it necessary to appoint a Commission in accordance with that Address, to enquire into the subjects to which it relates, and to report to you whether it may not be advisable, for the more efficient and speedy administration of Justice, to reorganize the Supreme Court, two of the Judges being incapacitated, from age and infirmity, to attend to the duties which devolve upon them, rendering such a reorganization absolutely indispensable; and, I trust it may be accomplished in some way that may be satisfactory to the Public, and agreeable to the worthy Chief Justice Brady, who at present presides in that Court.

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

There is at present no provision in this Colony for an allowance to retiring Judges, under any circumstances; but, I rely on your co-operation to place the Administration of Justice on an efficient footing.

I am happy to inform you that I observe, by a Return from the Receiver General, that the revenue for the year ending 1857, amounts to One Hundred and Sixteen Thousand, Six Hundred and Six Pounds, Four Shillings, and Six Pence, Sterling, which is a considerable increase to that of last year, and exceeds, by above Thirty Thousand Pounds, the year ending December, 1855.

An increasing Revenue must be, at all times, satisfactory; but, care should be taken to enquire into the causes which have occasioned financial prosperity. Very large importations of goods, I understand, were made last year; the fishery was successful, and the labouring population well employed and paid, and consequently, large consumers of dutiable articles; but, fisheries are precarious, and we cannot expect a series of successful years, and therefore, the Revenue should be appropriated with due economy, and a regard to