

31st *January*, 1854.

SECOND SESSION, FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY, 17TH OF VICTORIA.

mates, appear to me to be of so peculiarly local a character as to demonstrate the reasonableness of their being made local burthens.

A disregard of economy, and a tendency to improvidence, can hardly fail to flow from a system which makes the Public Revenue the only fund from whence is defrayed, without discrimination or exception, the expenditure for charges and services purely local, which in other communities are provided for by local rates and assessments.

This observation will apply with equal force to the expenditure for the relief of the poor, which is defrayed entirely from the public chest; as well as to the mode of dispensing it, which, with all the precautions that, under the present system, can be observed, is still deficient in incentives to self-reliance on the part of the able-bodied poor, and calculated rather to increase than to check pauperism.

I commend these matters to your careful consideration, in the hope that you may be able to devise remedies for what cannot but be regarded as growing evils.

Mr. President and Gentlemen of Her Majesty's Council :

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Assembly :

The Laws relating to Education and the Administration of Justice in the Out-ports will again come under your revision. I shall be happy to concur with you in any well-considered enactments which you may adopt for the furtherance of objects so important to the present and future well-being of all classes of the community.

The encouragement of Agriculture, with a due regard to the peculiarities of this soil and climate, but especially the introduction, breeding and rearing of Live Stock of a superior kind, deserve your consideration. By this means the employments and interests of our increasing population will be diversified and augmented, and the general good be advanced.

In fulfilment of the benevolent provisions of the Legislature, I have, during the recess, had the gratification of laying the Foundation-stone of an Asylum for the reception and curative treatment of Pauper Lunatics. Satisfactory progress has been made in the construction of that portion of the building for which funds were provided. The Report of the Commissioners I shall direct to be laid before you : and I congratulate you on the near prospect of the completion of an Institution in which may be put in practice the most approved methods of ameliorating the condition of this most unhappy class of our fellow-beings.

Through the mercy of Providence there has been no actual necessity, during the past year, for putting the Quarantine Act in operation. I deem it right, never-