

WEDNESDAY, 9th FEBRUARY, 1803.

MESSAGE was received from His EXCELLENCY the LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR, directing the House to proceed to the choice of a Speaker, when *Amos Botsford*, Esquire, being nominated, was elected *Nemine contradicente*; and conducted to the Chair.

The House then waited upon the LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR to present their Speaker, and being returned, Mr. Speaker reported, that His EXCELLENCY was pleased to approve of their choice—On which, that in the name of the House of Assembly, he most humbly demanded the privileges of the House; That the Members should be allowed freedom of Debate in their deliberations, access to His EXCELLENCY on occasion of the Public Business as His MAJESTY'S representative; to be free from molestation, with the power of punishing their own Members. In answer to which, that His EXCELLENCY was pleased to say, he would grant to the House of Assembly all such privileges as he was authorized to do by His MAJESTY'S instructions. And, that His EXCELLENCY was then pleased to make a Speech to both Houses, of which he had procured a Copy, to wit:

“ *Gentlemen of the Council, and*

“ *Gentlemen of the Assembly,*

“ **T**HE business which I have at this time to recommend to your consideration is chiefly the making of such arrangements and provisions as the state of the Provincial Revenue may be found to require, together with such a review of the existing Acts of Assembly as must from time be necessary for ascertaining what temporary Laws it may be expedient to revive or continue, and what amendments may, from experience, appear to be requisite either in these or in any of our permanent Colonial Statutes.

“ *Gentlemen of the Assembly,*

“ I have given orders for the Treasurer's Accounts, and such other papers as may be necessary for your further information to be laid before you.

“ The inconveniences which have been experienced, from deferring to make provision for the ordinary services, and especially for the payment of salaries to public officers, till the expiration of the year, induce me earnestly to recommend to your imitation the parliamentary practice of making the requisite appropriations to anticipate the periods for which they are assigned, and of providing by permanent grants, for the regular payment of suitable salaries to officers in the public service.

“ *Gentlemen of the Council, and*

“ *Gentlemen of the Assembly,*

“ As the happiness and prosperity of this Colony depends essentially on the preservation of that Constitution which has been established for its Government, it is our indispensable duty, in all our Legislative transactions and deliberations, to have a steady eye to that most important object, and to consider this as the only safe rule of conduct by which we can contribute to the promotion and permanence of the public welfare.”

On MOTION—*Resolved*, That an humble Address be presented to His EXCELLENCY the LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR, in answer to the foregoing Speech.—Ordered, that Mr. *M'Lean*, Mr. *Fraser*, Mr. *William Pagan*, Mr. *M'Kay*, and Mr. *Leonard*, be a Committee to prepare the said Address.

A Petition of Mr. *Peter Fraser*, and Mr. *Duncan M'Leod*—And,

A Petition of sundry Inhabitants of the County of *York*—Also,

A Petition of sundry Electors of the County of *York*—Also,

A Petition of other sundry Inhabitants of the County of *York*—Also,

A Petition of certain Electors of the County of *York*—Complaining of undue Election in the said County. Also,