

port have been free from all the labour of the one, and the grave responsibility attending the other.

"Your situation will now be most importantly changed. The people of Newfoundland will henceforth, in a great measure, become the guardians of their own happiness, and the promoters of their own welfare—and upon a wise and prudent use of the great privileges conceded to them, will materially depend their success in the attainment of these ends.

"The first and greatest exercise of the right they now enjoy, has been to return you, Gentlemen, to represent them here; and you, in accepting of this charge, have taken with it all the responsibilities it involves, and the consequences that arise from it.

"Of the various constitutions subsisting in Europe, that of your parent state has been considered by all nations as the one which best reconciles the freedom and independence of the people, with the due execution of the laws, and the good government of the nation—leaving all, without regard to rank or station, the full enjoyment of every wholesome right, and only restraining the evil-inclined from doing that which is wrong.—This constitution has been extended to you—and which I fervently trust will bring with it all the blessings the most sanguine can anticipate or hope for.

"The component parts of the government are, a Council composed of certain individuals selected by His Majesty, and an Assembly formed of the Representatives of the people—and these two bodies agreeing in any measure, when sanctioned by the King, or his Representative, it becomes a law. Each of these Estates will have its separate rights and privileges, corresponding to those enjoyed by the several branches of the Legislature in Great Britain—as far as they are applicable to the condition of a dependency on the parent state—rights and privileges arising more from the experience of past ages, as to their fitness and propriety, than from any express laws to establish them.

"It will be the duty of each branch of the Legislature—while it duly guards its own rights—carefully to avoid any interference with those of the other; as well as to give a liberal interpretation of its intentions in any supposed infringement of their own privileges, which, particularly on the first establishment of a new legislature, may very unintentionally arise—and thus avoid those differences that have so frequently occurred in other colonies, and which must ever be attended with disadvantage to their country, and detract from the dignity and value of their proceedings; and I can with great truth assure you, that it shall be my anxious endeavour—so long as I may have the honour to be His Majesty's Representative in this Island—to maintain, unimpaired, your several rights and privileges, equally with those the constitution more particularly places within my keeping.

"In a letter from my Lord Goderich which I shall have the honour in a few days to lay before the Council and Assembly—it is stated that 'it cannot be made too apparent that the boon which has been granted, is seconded by the cordial good-will and co-operation of the executive government, and that the House of Assembly is regarded, not as a rival power, but as a body destined to co-operate with yourself in advancing the prosperity of the settlement.'

"I cordially unite in those sentiments. Under this feeling I have re-assumed this government—and no endeavour shall be wanting on my part to give the fullest effect to them; and I cannot avail myself of a fitter opportunity to observe upon an erroneous opinion entertained by many upon this subject, who, not distinguishing between a supreme government and a colony, honestly think that they see in their rulers motives for restraining the liberties of the people—and that to view their actions with suspicion and distrust becomes a necessary duty—of which the mischievous and designing avail themselves to promote the worst of purposes. But however such may, or may not, be the case in parent-states, it cannot be applicable to a dependency—which is in the fortunate position of affording no motive, on the one hand to a factious opposition to attempt the overthrow of a government, with a view to establish themselves in their places—nor to a government, on the other, to resort to undue and unconstitutional means to retain those trusts from which they might, otherwise, be ejected—and heartless must that colonial government

be that could gratuitously allow its conduct to be swayed by any other consideration than the welfare of the inhabitants entrusted to its care.

"The experience of the past will afford the best criterion by which to judge of my wishes and desires towards those you are here to represent. Uninfluenced by any local prejudices, and without a single personal desire to gratify, I can have but one object before me—their happiness and prosperity; and I assure you, Gentlemen, from the bottom of my heart, that it will be my most anxious and unceasing endeavour to co-operate with you in every measure that can best attain those objects for which the privileges now about to be enjoyed have been solicited by the people and graciously conceded to them by their Sovereign."

And thereupon, the President of His Majesty's Council, by His Excellency's command, said,

*Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,*

It is His Excellency the Governor's pleasure that you Gentlemen of the House of Assembly repair to the place where you are to sit, and there proceed to the choice of some proper person as your Speaker, and that you present such person whom you may so choose, here immediately, for His Excellency's approbation.

And the House being returned,

Mr. HOYLES, addressing himself to the Clerk, proposed to the House JOHN BINGLEY GARLAND, Esq. Member for *Trinity Bay*, to be their Speaker. And the choice of the House having unanimously fallen upon the said John Bingley Garland, Esq., he stood up in his place, and expressing the sense he had of the honour proposed to be conferred upon him by the House, submitted himself to their choice, and he was taken out of his place by Mr. Hoyles and conducted to, and placed in the Chair accordingly, whereupon

Mr. Speaker elect, addressed the House as follows:—

*Gentlemen,*

I am deeply grateful to you for the high honour which you have conferred, no less than the confidence which you have reposed in me, by my unanimous election to the distinguished situation of the Speaker of this Assembly. While, however, I express these sentiments, I cannot but convey to you at the same time, the doubts which I entertain of my own abilities and experience for the proper performance of the functions which attach to so important an office. It is not on myself that I place any reliance; but to the Members of this Assembly shall I look for both assistance and support, to enable me to maintain its rights and privileges, and to preserve with impartiality that proper order and regularity which will greatly contribute to give stability and effect to our proceedings as a Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker elect, with the House, then went up to attend His Excellency in the Council Room, where Mr. Speaker elect was presented to His Excellency by Mr. Hoyles, Member for *Fortune Bay*, who addressed His Excellency as follows:

May it please your Excellency,

The House of Assembly, agreeably to your Excellency's command, have proceeded to the choice of a Speaker, and have unanimously elected JOHN BINGLEY GARLAND, Esq., Member for *Trinity Bay*, to that Office, and by their direction I beg leave to present him for your Excellency's approbation.

After which, His Excellency was pleased to say,

I approve of the Speaker whom the House of Assembly have chosen.