been pleafed to entertain of me, and the affurance of my earneft defire to merit a continuance of it.

A Meffage from His Excellency the Governor in Chief, figned by His Excellency, was prefented by the Honorable Mr. *Irvine*, to Mr. Speaker, which meffage was read, all the Members being uncovered, and the fame is as followeth, *videlicet* :

(Private and Confidential)

(Signed)   GEORGE PREVOST.

The Declaration of War, lately made by the the United States of America againft Great Britain and its dependencies, having placed this Province in a ftate of immediate and increafing danger, it becomes a matter of imperious neceffity to provide for the public fafety, by arming the government with the ampleft powers and authorities for promptly fuppreffing any attempt to produce diforder or infubordination, and for the immediate punifhment of whatever offences may interrupt or endanger the public tranquility.

Under thefe circumftances, the Governor in Chief would have felt himfelf fully juftified, in exercifing the power vefted in him by His Majefty, of making a general and unqualified declaration of Martial Law in the Province, as foon as it was officially known that war had been declared by America, and that the country was threatened by an immediate invafion ; but he has been reftrained from this meafure, by the confideration that as the Legiflature were fhortly to affemble, he might confidently rely upon their loyalty and wifdom, for fupplying him with fuch powers for the above purpofes, as fhould without interfering with the ordinary Jurifdiction of the Civil Courts, enable him upon all occafions, when he fhould fee fit, to proceed fummarily againft offenders of every defcription.

The Governor in Chief, therefore, fubmits to the confideration of the Houfe of Affembly, the neceffity of immediately ftrengthening the hands of His Majefty's Government, by arming him with this indifpenfible authority, which he trufts, they will have the lefs hefitation in doing, from their conviction that he can, at all times, by virtue of his commiffion