

make a temporary appointment of Two Inspectors of High Ways for the purpose of carrying more effectually into execution the Road Act of 1795; and also of expending, with great advantage, such monies as may be appropriated in aid thereof. Contracts for Road Works have been repeatedly but ineffectually advertised for, I have still hopes of making some progress this season, and can only say, that in the direction of this or any other affair of public concern, my utmost exertions have not been wanting.

“The Commissioners for building a Gaol have, in like manner, been unsuccessful in advertising for contracts.

“The Colonial Statutes have been revised and will soon be printed, and measures have been adopted towards the establishment of a meridional line to regulate Surveyors. In the promotion of this latter object a temporary delay has occurred from the non-performance of a contract entered into for part of the necessary materials in Nova-Scotia.

*Gentlemen of the House of Representatives,*

“The care which has been lately evinced by your House in providing for the sundry works of public exigency, leaves no doubt with me of your laudable continuance in the exercise of that well-directed public spirit which has so conspicuously characterised the present General Assembly.

“The roads, the agriculture, the fishery, and commerce of this colony are objects which strongly claim your support. But one great primary establishment, I am persuaded, will not escape your attention—the internal defence of the Colony. Whilst the forces of our august Sovereign protect our shores from the invasion of hostile fleets and armies, it is but reasonable that we should place ourselves in a competent situation effectually to repel all eventual attempts of straggling or desperate marauders, and to protect our lives, our property, our colonial credit.

“The Militia has been organized by the executive authority; proper Officers, as far as practicable, have been appointed, and every man knows his post. It remains with the Legislature to provide the means of affording competent discipline and some exigent aid for the equipment of the officers and men; and probably, upon consideration, some amendment may appear necessary in the Militia Laws.

“It will be found that a further supply will be required to defray the expences of erecting the public buildings alluded to in the Land Assessment Act, for which it is expedient to provide the requisite amount before any contract can, with propriety, be entered into. The buildings for the Courts of Law and Assembly has already occupied my attention, and that of his Majesty's Colonial Council; Plans, Elevations, Descriptions, and Proposals on the subject will be laid before you; and I have no doubt you will provide for these deficiencies in the mode least burthensome and most eligible to be adopted.

“I have directed the public accounts to be laid before you; you will therein observe the great increase which has unavoidably taken place in the expence of various services, and which I believe will be found to bear a proportion adequate at least to the increase of the permanent revenue. I beg leave to suggest, that by a small amendment in the statute, the collection of that revenue might be placed upon more productive, effectual, and equitable footing.

“Permit me to recommend, as highly deserving your consideration, the establishment and regulation of Assizes and Quarter-Sessions throughout the Colony—essential objects—which, at an earlier period, from the want of a sufficient population, could not opportunely be carried into effect, are now anxiously called for, and will afford great accommodation and advantage, prevent much expence, loss of time and fatigue in travelling, particularly in the more remote settlements.

*Mr. President and Gentlemen of his Majesty's Council,*

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

“Relying on your discretion, activity, and promptitude, in the discharge of your Legislative duty, I am fully persuaded that you will conduct the public business with harmony, efficacy, and dispatch, and enable me soon to release you from your attendance by closing this session. To you is committed the representation, the care, the advancement of this infant colony, the permanent establishment of its public welfare and of your individual interests. It is an arduous task to perform, and Gentlemen, I anticipate the happiest result from your labours.”

On Motion, Ordered, That Mr. Ewen Cameron be appointed Clerk of this House in the stead of Mr. John Lobban, the late Clerk, being absent from the Island, and he accordingly took the usual oaths, and took his place at the table.

The House adjourned till Half past Five o'Clock this Evening.