

Protection from the Invasion and Ravage of a merciless Enemy ; and for the Enjoyment of the Blessings of Peace in the midst of a widely extended and cruel War :

It is with particular Satisfaction I Congratulate you on the Return of His Royal Highness the DUKE of KENT to this Province in the Chief Command of His Majesty's Forces in North America. The exalted Military Talents, the eminent Virtues, and the vigilant and active Attention of his Royal Highness to every part of his Command, afforded the best hope of a continuance of Safety and Security to us ; while the Honour we derive from his Residence cannot fail to Inspire the most respectful Sentiments of Gratitude and joyful Satisfaction.

The judicious and liberal Encouragement afforded by the Grants of Money made by the late Assembly, for Erecting of Public Buildings, the making of Bridges, and the Opening and Repair of the great Roads, has already produced Consequences very beneficial to the Province ; and greatly facilitated the interior Commerce of the Country ; and when the whole of the Monies Voted shall have been faithfully Expended, with such further Sums as may be requisite to complete the Object intended, the result will Furnish, I trust, an irrefragable proof of Patriotism ; and public Spirit ; and rapidly forwarded the growing Prosperity of the People : and, I have great Satisfaction in adding, that the proceedings of the Assembly in providing for these very important Services, have met with his Majesty's approbation.

There is one part of the Province which has been reported to me as sufferings exceedingly for the want of Roads of Communication, and which I wish particularly to recommend to your Consideration. A number of industrious Settlers located on the Eastern Harbours from *Antigonish* and *Manchester* to *Halifax*, are at present destitute of any Communication with the Capital, except by Water. A Road opened from thence would be of the highest Utility to the Province, and tend to increase the Settlement and Population of a very valuable tract of Country.

[The losses which the Merchants have sustained by the capture of Vessels employed in the Foreign Trade, and the Embarrassments to which our Commerce and Fisheries have become liable from the deficiency of circulating Money, may make it expedient to lessen the Duties on Spirits and Wines, and the state of our Public Funds perhaps renders the present time the most proper for such Reduction.]

I will order the Public Accounts to be laid before you, together with the Estimates for the ensuing Year ; and such other Papers and Documents as may be necessary to assist you in transacting the Business of the Session ; and you may rely on my Co-operation in all Measures conducive to the common Weal.

On Motion, *ordered*, That Mr. *Robie*, Mr. *Wilkins*, and Mr. *Morris*, be a Committee to prepare an Address in Answer to his Excellency's Speech.

The House then proceeded to the Choice of Officers, when Mr. *James Bontineau Francklin*, was chosen Clerk.

The Reverend *Robert Stanser*, Chaplain.

Mr. *Adolphus Vieth*, Sergeant at Arms, and

Mr. *John Nevil*, Messenger.

The Clerk took the usual Oaths.

*Ordered*, That Mr. *Robie*, Mr. *Wilkins*, Mr. *Millidge*, Mr. *Tonge*, Mr. *Morris*, Mr. *McMonagle*, Mr. *Taylor*, Mr. *Noribup*, Mr. *Lusby*, Mr. *Fulton*, Mr. *Allison*, Mr. *Crane*, and Mr. *Thorne*, be a grand Committee of Justice.

*Ordered*, That Mr. *Cochran*, Mr. *McMonagle*, Mr. *Mortimer*, Mr. *Chipman*, and Mr. *Taylor*, be a Committee for examining the publick Accounts jointly, with a Committee of his Majesty's Council, and that the Clerk do acquaint the Council with the same.

On Motion of Mr. *Tonge*, *resolved*, That an humble Address be presented to his Royal Highness the Duke of KENT, to assure his Royal Highness of the Respect and Attachment of this House, and to congratulate him on his safe Return to this Province as Commander in Chief of his Majesty's Forces in *British North America*.

*Ordered*, That Mr. *Tonge*, Mr. *Millidge*, and Mr. *McMonagle*, be a Committee, to draw up an Address to be presented to his Royal Highness, on the above Resolution.

A Petition of *Michael Wallace*, was presented by Mr. *McMonagle*, and read, setting