

Monday, 7th November, 1825.

SIR PEREGRINE MAITLAND, K. C. B. Lieutenant Governor.

by the diligent and judicious aid of the Legislature, it is most satisfactory to reflect upon the rapid increase of our revenue, which cannot fail to accrue from several great & obvious causes.

The duties which will hereafter be paid upon the one principal article of consumption which I have already noticed, and the expansion of trade which must necessarily attend the increase of population, would of themselves justify such an expectation. In addition to these grounds of hope, the Arbitrators appointed under the statute of the Imperial parliament, have awarded to us a larger proportion of the duties received at Quebec than we have hitherto enjoyed, a decision which must directly and considerably augment our resources.

Under these disadvantages it is hoped, that the existing pressure upon our revenue will not much longer be felt; and it is most satisfactory, that the prospect of more abundant means should present itself at a moment, when an ardor for public improvement appears so generally to prevail.

It will be interesting to you to learn, that within the present year His Majesty has caused a survey to be made of the British North American provinces by officers of eminent Military skill, in order to ascertain the state of their defences, and by what means their security can most effectually be provided for. You will naturally rejoice in every such demonstration that the safety and welfare of this Colony, are objects constantly present to the attention of the Parent state.

The several branches of the Legislature cannot but feel how much is due on their part towards the advancement of a Colony, which, under the blessing of providence, enjoys so many advantages—By a zealous and cordial application to the public interests much may be effected; and it will at all times be my pleasure, as it is my duty, to concur in such enactments as may appear to me to promise benefit to the country.

I am happy to have it at length in my power, by the consent of His Majesty's government, to propose for your consideration, as I shall do by message, one measure which has long appeared to me extremely desirable, and which has for its object to set at rest the just apprehensions with respect to their civil rights, which affect a very considerable portion of the population of this province.

The House of Assembly having withdrawn His Excellency was pleased to retire.

PRAYERS WERE READ.

The honorable the Speaker informed the house, that he was in possession of a copy of His Excellency's Speech, which he read, and it was again read (pro forma) by the Clerk.

ON motion made and seconded, the Honorable Messieurs Strachan and Wells were appointed a committee to prepare an address in answer to His Excellency's speech.

The honorable Mr. Baby informed the Speaker that Thomas Ridout, Esquire, was in attendance with a commission appointing him a member of the Legislative council of this province.—Mr. Ridout being introduced by the honorable Messieurs Baby and Wells, delivered his commission to the Speaker, by whom it was given to the Clerk and read as follows:

P. MAITLAND.

UPPER CANADA.

GEORGE the FOURTH by the grace of **GOD** of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, King defender of the Faith:

TO our Trusty and well-beloved THOMAS RIDOUT, Esquire.

GREETING:

KNOW YE that as well for the especial trust and confidence, that WE have manifested in you, as for the purpose of obtaining your advice and assistance in all weighty and arduous affairs, which may the state and defence of our said province of Upper Canada and the Church thereof concern: WE HAVE thought fit to summon you to the Legislative council of our said Province; AND WE DO therefore command you the said Thomas Ridout, that all difficulties and excuses whatsoever laying aside, you be and appear for the purposes aforesaid at the Legislative Council of our said province at all times, whensoever and wheresoever our provincial parliament may be therein hereafter convoked and holden, and this you are in no wise to omit.

His Excellency retires.

Committee to prepare Address in answer to the speech.

Commission of Thomas Ridout, Esquire, appointing him a member of this house.