

had chosen him to be their Speaker, and humbly trusted their election would meet His Excellency's approbation.

Whereupon the Honorable the President of the Legislative Council said—

JOSEPH POPE, ESQUIRE.

I am commanded by His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor to acquaint you that His Excellency doth allow and confirm you to be their Speaker.

And hereupon Mr. Speaker addressed His Excellency to the following effect :

May it please your Excellency;

As you have been pleased to approve of the choice of the House of Assembly, in appointing me to be their Speaker, it now becomes my duty, as such, to request of your Excellency, as the privilege of the House, that the Members thereof, during the Session, may be freed from arrest; that they may have freedom of speech in their debates, and have free access to your Excellency on all occasions; and I do also, in their name and behalf, beg leave to claim all their ancient rights and privileges.

The President of the Council then replied:

MR. SPEAKER;

I am commanded by His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor to say, that His Excellency, being fully assured of the prudence, loyalty and good affection of the House of Assembly, most willingly grants to them all their privileges, conformably to ancient usage, the laws of the land, and Her Majesty's Instructions.

The House being returned, Mr. Speaker reported, that when the House did attend His Excellency this day in the Council Chamber, His Excellency was pleased to make a Speech to both Houses of the Legislature, of which, Mr. Speaker said, he had, to prevent mistakes, obtained a copy, which was read by the Clerk, and is as followeth :—

*Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council;*

*Gentlemen of the House of Assembly;*

I have called the Legislature together at a period, perhaps, earlier than is quite necessary, for the ordinary affairs of the Colony; but that measure appeared to me the more expedient, in order that ample time may be given for the consideration of any difficulties which may have arisen out of the recent Elections, as well as for the execution of the general business of the Colony, before the Winter shall pass away.

I derive much gratification from my ability to inform you, that no part of the additional grant made in the last Session of the Legislature, for the relief

of the most necessitous of the Inhabitants of the Colony, has been called for; a fact which should be thankfully acknowledged, as an instance of the Divine care having been graciously extended to this Island, in a time of contemplated distress and scarcity.

During the recess, I have appointed Commissioners, to enquire into all matters connected with the currency of the Island. When the result of their labours is before me, I shall lose no time in presenting it for the consideration of the Legislature.

The Law relating to the prevention of Smuggling will expire this year; at present, it is in operation, under a precaution, adopted by the Executive, rendering the Officers who may be appointed to that duty more responsible than otherwise they would be.

I recommend to your consideration "the Act relating to Statute Labour, and the Expenditure of Public Moneys on the Highways," with the view of improving the management of this important branch of the Public Service.

Although the important subject of Education continues to engage much public as well as private attention, throughout the Colony; and the care of the Legislature has been liberally extended in its behalf, I wish I could entertain the hope of seeing, at an early period, one uniform system of instruction introduced into the several Educational Establishments, a practice which experience has found to be extremely advantageous. In glancing at this question, so deeply interesting to all classes, I cannot pass over the great and impartial attention given by the Masters of the Central Academy to the important duties which they have to perform; nor can I deny myself the gratification of remarking upon the benevolence and zeal with which many, who are by position and profession, totally unconnected with the exercise of Scholastic duties, have come forward to aid in the important work, of rearing a population in the knowledge of its religious and moral obligations; I may, I feel assured, claim for the several Educational Institutions, that protection which the means of the Colony will permit you to bestow upon them.

The Lunatic Asylum and House of Industry has been completed, and I have appointed the necessary Trustees for its management. I am happy to observe, that the Legislative grant for its maintenance, which was deemed insufficient for that purpose, has been augmented by a voluntary and liberal subscription, which although contributed by a limited number of persons, will form a considerable addition to the original endowment of the Institution.

I sincerely congratulate you upon the steady advancement of the public Revenue of the Colony; the receipts of the Customs' Department especially, exhibit a very considerable increase over those of any