

"in every quarter of the globe, have not however prevented our most gracious Sovereign from giving new proofs of liberality and attention to His North American Colonies. The bounties granted by Act of Parliament in favour of our exports, the exclusion of Foreign Salted Provisions from the British West-Indies and the allowance of a direct trade to Gibraltar, are so many encouragements to the Commerce of this Province, and call for our most grateful thanks. They will I doubt not be followed by suitable endeavours on our part to merit a continuance of his protection.

"I have directed the Public Accounts and Estimates to be laid before you, in full confidence of your making such provisions as the public service may be found to require, in such manner as may be most effectual, and at the same time least inconvenient to the people.

"The autumn of the year 1804 was ushered in with such premature and severe frost, as occasioned a great diminution of the crops, and in some parts of the Province the inhabitants suffered much distress throughout the spring and summer following. The evil appeared too general for the private hand of charity, I was therefore induced to avail myself of your annual confidential vote, and endeavoured by a small loan of provisions to the most indigent to enable them to support their families until the ensuing harvest. The particular Accounts will be laid before you, and the mode adopted will, I hope, meet with your approbation.

"The Impost Duties of last Session, have proved productive, and will be sufficient to discharge the Public Debts. As your attention will be called to a renewal of the Revenue Law, to supply the exigencies of Government; it is a subject well deserving your consideration, how far the encreasing consumption of Rum, which threatens to enervate the present and rising generation, may be safely checked; and whether, it will be possible to apply such a duty, as will contribute to this desirable end.— High Port Duties encrease the temptation to smuggling (a practice already too prevalent) and instead of lessening the consumption of the article, only injures the fair importer. Perhaps the most effectual way to answer the double purpose, would be, to have recourse to the place of consumption, by rating the retailer of Spirituous Liquors according to the quantity he sells. The success attending the interior duty on Malt and Wine in Great-Britain, holds out sufficient encouragement for us to adopt a similar practice. And as the growing burthen of the poor rates is much augmented by the free use of Spirituous Liquors, it may perhaps be thought a real relief to the Country, should the produce arising from this source in each County be appropriated to the support of its poor. Taxation will then contribute to guard the morals of Society, as well as be the means of its support.

"Gentlemen of the Council,

"and Gentlemen of the Assembly,

"I have full confidence in your zeal for the prosperity of the Colony, and you may rely on my cordial assent to any Laws, which on mature deliberation, shall be thought requisite for the public welfare."

ORDERED that, His Honor the PRESIDENT's Speech be taken into consideration to-morrow.

RESOLVED that, an Humble Address be presented to His Honor the PRESIDENT, in answer to the foregoing Speech. Ordered that Mr. Robinson, Mr. McLean, Mr. Miles, Mr. W. Pagan, and Mr. Porter be a Committee to prepare the said Address.

THE HOUSE is Adjourned until to-morrow morning at 11 of the Clock.

SATURDAY,