

4 56 Geo. III. Journals of the Legislative Council. A. 1816.

*Gentlemen of the Legislative Council, and
Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,*

His Royal Highness the Prince Regent having been pleased to commit to me the Administration of this Government, I have entered upon the duties which that trust prescribes, with a deep sense of their importance, and an earnest desire to discharge them for the general advantage of the Province; to which my attachment naturally derives additional strength, from the circumstance of my having been born in its capital.

It would be to me a source of inexpressible comfort, and I am confident, would convey to you sincere satisfaction, if I had it in my power to communicate any favourable account, respecting the indisposition of our venerable Sovereign: I regret, however, that I have no such information to impart: yet under this awful dispensation, it is not an inconsiderable consolation to be assured, that His Majesty has no corporeal suffering, and continues in a state of undisturbed tranquillity.

The total overthrow and final exile of the Usurper whose insatiable ambition and remorseless thirst of blood were permitted so long to afflict the world;—the restoration, once more, of the Family of Bourbon to the Throne of their Ancestors; the general Peace which has been given back to Europe, by the magnanimous exertions of the Allied Powers, and the high distinction obtained by the British Forces, under the conduct of the illustrious Duke of Wellington, consummated and crowned by the glorious Victory of Waterloo,—while they fill our minds with exultation, and open the prospect of permanent prosperity, will not fail to awaken a profound and grateful sense of the goodness of Divine Providence, so conspicuously manifested in these great events.

In adverting to those matters of internal concern, which have been the object of assembling this Provincial Parliament, I have to direct your early attention to the renewal of the Militia Act, and such others as, with it, may be about to expire, and as it may be necessary or expedient to continue.

I must also, in consequence of many discontented adventurers and mischievous agitators, from the Continent of Europe, having recently