

*Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the Assembly :*

The Public Accounts of the last year will be immediately laid before you, and I hope it will appear that the Financial Affairs of the Province have been conducted with regularity and due attention to economy.

I shall also direct the Estimate of the present year to be submitted to you, with every confidence that the Supplies necessary for the support of His Majesty's Government will be provided by you, with your usual liberality.

*Mr. President, and Gentlemen of His Majesty's Council :*

*Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,*

While I advert, with real satisfaction, to our present state and future prospects, I feel it my duty, at the same time, still to advise a prudent and judicious application of our means; serious difficulties and inconveniencies will always arise from pecuniary embarrassments; and the surest way of averting evils of this nature is to keep our expenditure within our income.

This course may, however, I think, be pursued without losing sight of any of the important interests of the Province.

The happiest effects have already attended our Agricultural exertions; and a steady perseverance in the same system will soon render us independent, as far as regards the necessaries of life.

Our Fisheries too merit protection and encouragement: and I sincerely hope that you may be able to devise some unobjectionable plan for giving a stimulus to that valuable and most important branch of our industry. It is however unnecessary for me to enter into further details; for I feel persuaded, that you will give your early and earnest attention to every object which can promote the general welfare of the Province, and the happiness of its inhabitants: In all such measures you will ever find me disposed to co-operate with you in the most cordial and effectual manner in my power.

*Ordered,* That Mr. Haliburton, Mr. Archibald, Mr. Uniacke, Mr. Lawson, and Mr. Grassie, be a Committee to prepare an Address, in answer to His Excellency's Speech.

*Ordered,* That Mr. Lawson, Mr. Albro, Mr. Smith, Mr. Campbell and Mr. Young, be a Committee of this House for the purpose of examining the Public Accounts, jointly, with a Committee of His Majesty's Council, and that the Clerk do acquaint the Council therewith.

*Ordered,* That Mr. Uniacke, Mr. Grassie, and Mr. Bishop, be a Committee to examine into, and report on, the expiring Laws.

*Ordered,* That Mr. Haliburton, Mr. J. I. Chipman, Mr. Grassie, Mr. Uniacke, Mr. Flemming, Mr. Wier, and Mr. O'Brien, be a Committee of Privileges.

Then the House adjourned until To-morrow, at three of the Clock.

*Friday, 14th February, 1823.*

PRAYERS.

A Message from the Council by Mr. Hill:

Mr. Speaker,

His Majesty's Council have appointed a Committee to join the Committee of this House, for the purpose of examining the Public Accounts.

And then the Messenger withdrew.

Mr. Haliburton reported from the Committee, appointed to prepare an Address in answer to His Excellency's Speech, that the Committee had drawn up an Address accordingly, and he read the Address in his place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's Table, where it was read, and is as follows:—