

a law to afford additional security against the recurrence of similar misfortunes. The views of Her Majesty's Government, as communicated to the Right Honorable the Earl of Elgin, will be submitted for your information and guidance.

A revision of the laws regulating Elections, is also a matter well deserving your attention, and I would recommend for your consideration whether a law upon the same principle as that which was lately passed in the Province of Nova Scotia, and which is also in force in the Province of New Brunswick, might not be adopted with advantage in this Colony.

I will communicate to you by Message, such other matters affecting the general interests of the Island, as it may be deemed necessary to bring under your consideration during the Session.

It will be gratifying to you to learn the prosperous state of the Revenue for the past year. Although burdened with an unforeseen and extraordinary expenditure, exceeding £3000, in providing seed grain for the necessitous settlers at the commencement of the season, and in supporting the sick and destitute Emigrants, it will still be found to exhibit a considerable surplus beyond the charges of the year. Encouraging as this favourable state of the Revenue appears, I must press upon you the necessity of exercising the strictest economy in its disposition, by a systematic perseverance in which, we may hope to relieve the Colony from its existing liabilities.

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

I shall order the Public Accounts to be submitted to you without delay, the classification which has been made by the Auditors, as suggested by the House of Assembly in the last Session, will prove a saving of time and labour, by affording facilities for their examination.

The estimates for the Supplies of the current year will also be laid before you, and I have every confidence that you will grant the necessary provision for the Public Service.

As the Act for levying an assessment on all Lands in the Island, will shortly expire, it will be for you to consider whether, in the present circumstances of the Island, it will not be advisable to continue this Act, or even to raise a larger proportion of the Colonial Revenue from this source, so as to enable you to reduce other duties, with a view to the encouragement of the Trade of the Colony.

I would, however, suggest, for your consideration, whether it will be expedient to continue the distinction between improved and unimproved lands.

*Mr. President, and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council :*

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

Being sensibly impressed with the conviction, that our co-operation is essential to the advancement of the public interests, I invite you to an unreserved communication upon all occasions, and you may rely upon my ready concurrence, in such measures as are calculated to develop the resources of the Colony, and to promote the peace, good order, and welfare of the people.

Mr. Speaker acquainted the House, that since the termination of the last Session, he had received a communication from two Members of the House—Mr. Rae and Mr. Whelan—informing him that a vacancy had taken place in the representation of the First Electoral District of Queen's County, in consequence of the acceptance by George Coles, Esqr., of a seat in the Executive Council; and that he had complied with the Law, by giving a notification thereof to the Lieutenant Governor, in pursuance of which a Writ was issued for the election of a Member to represent the said District, to which Writ no return had been made.

Mr. Speaker also acquainted the House, that he had likewise received a communication from four Members—Messrs. J. H. Conroy, Haviland, Montgomery and D. Maclean—intimating that a vacancy had occurred in the representation of the First Electoral District of Prince County, in consequence of the appointment of James Warburton, Esqr., to a seat in the Executive Council; and that he had given the necessary notification to His Excellency, who had replied by a letter, enclosing the written opinions of the Attorney and Solicitor General, and which he now begged to lay before the House, as they appeared to him materially to affect its privileges.

His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor's letter, and the enclosure, were then read at the Clerk's Table, and are as follow :

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
January 22nd, 1848.

SIR ;

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16th inst., informing me that a vacancy has happened in the House of Assembly, by James Warburton, Esq., one of the Members thereof, having been called to Her Majesty's Council, and reporting the same to me, in order that a new Writ for the election of a Member to fill up such vacancy may be issued.