

Among the various subjects which will occupy you in the course of this Session, I have it in Command from His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, to call your attention to the state of the Militia of this Province; with the view of adopting such measures as may place that Establishment on a more efficient footing.

I recommend to your early consideration, the state of the Agriculture of the Province, and of the Fisheries on the Coast:—These are sources of prosperity of the highest importance to this Country; they are capable of great improvement, and the present times of settled tranquility in the Political World, are peculiarly favourable to the advancement of a system tending to animate, encourage, and direct, that industrious disposition which prevails in all parts of the Province.

I also recommend to your further consideration, the Law which was passed in 1816, to regulate the export of Gypsum; and, if experience has shewn that there are material defects in it, I have no doubt you will think proper to remove them.

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

I have ordered the Public Accounts to be submitted to your inspection. Nearly the whole of your liberal Grants of the last Session have been applied to the purposes for which they were made: I trust the Expenditure will be found to have been judicious; and that the Province will experience the beneficial effects of it.

Having cause to apprehend considerable diminution in the Revenue this year, our views in the Appropriation for the Public Service, must, necessarily, be restricted.

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

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

I have no doubt that your special attention will still be directed to the improvement of the Roads throughout the Province; and I feel a confident hope, that the unanimity which has hitherto so happily prevailed in your Legislative Proceedings, will continue to facilitate the dispatch of Business; and enable me, at an early period, to release you from your attendance. On my part, you will find an anxious desire to co-operate with you in every measure which may promote the prosperity of the Province.

*Ordered,* That Mr. Archibald, Mr. Haliburton, and Mr. Mortimer, be a committee to prepare an Address in answer to His Excellency's Speech.

*Ordered,* That Mr. Lawson, Mr. Mortimer, Mr. Chipman, Mr. Allison and Mr. Pryor, 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. Haliburton, Mr. Ritchie and Mr. Pyke be a committee to examine into and report on the expiring Laws.

*Ordered,* That no Petition, of a private nature, be received after Saturday, the 28th instant.

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

*Friday, 6th February, 1818.*

PRAYERS.

A Petition of James Ferguson was presented by Mr. Marshall, and read, praying that he may be allowed a credit on certain Bonds given for the Excise Duty on a quantity of British Merchandise imported into the Province by the Petitioner, and afterwards unfortunately consumed by fire, in October, 1816, amounting to 140l. 10s.

*Ordered,* That the Petition do lie on the table.

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

*Saturday,*