

The House of Assembly having withdrawn, His Excellency was pleased to retire.

A copy of His Excellency's Speech having been left with the House, it was read by the Clerk and is as follows :

Governor's Speech

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

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

I have much pleasure in meeting you at this season of comparative leisure, when there will be ample time afforded you for the exercise of your important legislative functions in the promotion of the public welfare.

Before, however, calling your attention to matters of local interest, it becomes my painful duty to allude to the recent melancholy demise of His late Royal Highness the Prince Consort, and to invite you to join with me in an expression of respectful but deep sympathy with our beloved Queen and the Royal family, under the heavy affliction with which it has pleased the Almighty to visit them, and the nation at large, by the death of a Prince whose eminent virtues had justly endeared him to all classes of Her Majesty's subjects, and whose scientific knowledge and varied accomplishments were always actively employed in the furtherance of every scheme tending to the social improvement of the people amongst whom he occupied so exalted a position.

In consequence of no Return having been made for Harbor Grace at the General Election in May, a Writ was necessarily issued for the return of two Members to represent that District, and the election took place in November last. I am sure you must have been as much gratified as I was to see (for the first time in four successive elections) the one in November pass over quietly, the electors not having been subjected to intimidation, and every one voting as his conscience dictated. It must not, however, be forgotten that unusual and expensive precautions were taken by the Government for the preservation of order. From the experience of three