

CHAP.

I.

1809.

“ might conduce to the happiness and welfare of the Colony. All this I had a right to expect, because such was your constitutional duty ; because such a conduct would have been a lasting testimony, as it was the only one sought for by His Majesty’s government, of that loyalty and affection which you have so warmly professed, and which I believe you to possess ; and because it was particularly call’d for by the critical conjuncture of the times, and especially by the precarious situation in which we then stood with respect to the American States. I am sorry to add, that I have been disappointed in all these expectations, and in every hope on which I relied.

“ You have wasted (continued he) in fruitless debates, excited by private and personal animosity, or by frivolous contests upon trivial matters of form, that time and those talents, to which within your walls, the public have an exclusive title. This abuse of your functions you have preferred to the high and important duties which you owe to your Sovereign and to your constituents, and you have thereby been forced to neglect the consideration of matters of moment and necessity which were before you, while you have at the same time virtually prevented the introduction of such others as may have been in contemplation. If any proof of this misuse of your time were necessary, I have just presented it in having been called on after a session of five weeks, to exercise his Majesty’s prerogative of assent, to only the same number of bills, three of which were the mere renewal of acts to which you stood pledged, and which required no discussion. So much of intemperate heat has been manifested in all your proceedings, and you have shewn such a prolonged and disrespectful attention to matters submitted to your consideration by the other branches of the Legislature, that whatever might be the moderation and forbearance exercised on their parts, a general good understanding is scarcely to be looked for without a new Assembly.”

“ I shall not (he added,) particularly advert to other acts which appear to be unconstitutional infringements of the rights of the subject repugnant to the very letter of the statute of the Imperial Parliament, under which you hold your seats: and to have been matured by proceedings, which amount to a dereliction of the first principles of natural justice.” He concluded this speech with his acknowledgments