

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

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

Thirty-three of the Acts passed during the last Session have received the Royal allowance.

I presume that the Act for taking a Census has also been left to its operation.

The remaining three, viz :—the Elective Council Act; the Act for the organization of the Volunteer Force, and that for the Incorporation of the Roman Catholic Bishop, have not at yet, received the Royal Allowance. Despatches from Her Majesty's Colonial Minister, containing suggestions on the subject of the two last mentioned Acts, will be laid before you.

An Act passed in the Session of 1860, authorizing the issue of Fishery Licences to citizens of the United States, for vessels built in this Island, and owned by them, has lately been specially confirmed by Her Majesty. I trust that it will have a beneficial effect on the Trade of this Country.

The Commissioners appointed to enquire into the Land Question have completed their laborious task, and have forwarded their Report to His Grace the Duke of Newcastle.

I have not as yet received any communication from His Grace on this important subject; but I am confident that he will not allow this Session of the Colonial Legislature to pass, without communicating to me Her Majesty's Commands on a question in which the people of this Island are so generally interested, and in regard to which they are known to feel so much anxiety.

The Governor General of Canada has recently forwarded to me a proposal for the Establishment of a Reciprocal Free Trade among the British North American Provinces, and for an assimilation of their respective Tariffs. It is unnecessary for me to direct your special attention to a subject of such paramount importance. Papers relating to it will be laid before you.

I trust that your deliberations during the Session may, under the Divine blessing, tend to the Advancement and Prosperity of the People of this Colony.

Mr. Speaker informed the House that he had received a letter from the Sergeant-at-Arms, requesting the House to accept his resignation; and thereupon

The Hon. Mr. Macaulay moved that Mr. Albert H. Yates be appointed Sergeant-at-Arms, in place of Mr. Wellington Nelson, resigned.

The Hon. Mr. Coles moved, in amendment to the motion, that Robert Hyndman, Esq., be Sergeant-at-Arms.

The House divided on the motion of amendment.

YEAS : 8.

NAYS : 19.

So it passed in the negative.

The question being then put on the main motion, it was carried in the affirmative, and

*Resolved*, accordingly.

*Resolved*, That a Committee of Seven Members be appointed to prepare and report with all convenient speed, the draft of an Address in answer to the Speech of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, delivered this day, to both Houses of the Legislature.

*Ordered*, That Mr. Davies, Mr. John Yeo, Mr. Owen, Mr. Montgomery, Mr. Macneill, Mr. Howat and Mr. Holm do compose the said Committee.

*Resolved*, That a Committee of Seven Members be appointed to examine and report on the Public Accounts, with power to send for persons, papers and records.

*Ordered*, That Mr. Macneill, Mr. Davies, Mr. Beer, Mr. John Yeo, the Hon. Mr. Wightman, the Hon. Mr. Perry and the Hon. Mr. Thornton do compose the said Committee.

*Resolved*, That a Committee of three Members be appointed to provide Stationery for the use of the House.

*Ordered*, That the Hon. Mr. Pope, Mr. Ramsay and the Hon. Mr. Perry do compose the said Committee.

*Resolved*, That a Committee of seven Members be appointed to keep up a good correspondence between the two branches of the