

After which His Excellency was pleased to open the Session with the following SPEECH:

GENTLEMEN of the Council and House of Assembly.

"I HAVE called you together, at the time I thought most convenient for you, to consider the present State of the Affairs of the Province; and the best Measures to be pursued for the Advantage of it.

His Excellency's
Speech to the
House.

"These Considerations will comprehend your Engagements to discharge the Debt to Individuals: consequently the State and Ability of the Treasury to discharge that Debt; and the sufficiency of the Revenue, arising from the different Duties, now by Law imposed for that purpose, together with the means of supplying any Deficiency; if the Revenue Laws have fail'd in the Produce expected from them.

"These several Matters, Gentlemen, with others that may relate to them, will require your most mature Deliberations. And I trust, that the Result of them will be beneficial and happy. The more they shall agree with the Constitution, and Commercial System of Great Britain, the more shall we be united with the Parent State; and thereby, derive every Advantage, that may follow the most intimate Connection.

"The proper Officers will lay before you, all Papers necessary for your Information. And I recommend a speedy Dispatch of the Public Business to you, that a Recess may the sooner leave you at Liberty, to return to your Private Affairs."

The House being returned,

The Speaker reported, that they had attended upon his Excellency; and that he had been pleased to make the Speech before mentioned; a Copy of which being read, it was thereupon

Ordered, That Major Barclay, Captain Howe, and Mr. Day be a Committee to prepare an Address in Answer to His Excellency's Speech.

Committee appointed to prepare an Address.

Ordered, That Mr. James, Mr. Schwartz, Mr. Digby, Mr. Day and Mr. M^o Monagle be a Committee, to join a Committee of His Majesty's Council, for the purpose of Examining the public Accounts and reporting thereon. And that the Council be acquainted with the same.

Committee appointed to examine public Accounts.

The House adjourned to Eleven o'Clock To-Morrow.

Friday, 6th March, 1780.

The Committee appointed to prepare an Address in Answer to His Excellency's Speech reported the following Draft, which being twice read, was unanimously agreed to and ordered to be engrossed.

Address reported.