

MONDAY, February 28, 1825.

THE House met pursuant to adjournment.—PRAYERS.

Mr. *Cameron* moved for leave to bring in a petition from Mrs. *Margaret McDonald*, of Tracadie, widow of Captain John McDonald, complaining of Trespasses by cattle and hogs, upon marshes and meadows, and praying that this House would take the same into consideration. Leave being granted, the said petition was read and ordered to lie on the table.

The *Attorney General* moved for leave to present the draft of an Address to his Excellency the Lieut. Governor, relative to the extending the Free Port Laws to this Colony, and praying that his Excellency would be pleased to communicate with the Right Honorable Earl Bathurst on that subject. Leave being granted, the Address was read and ordered to be submitted to the consideration of a Committee of the whole House to-morrow.

Adjourned to 10 o'clock to-morrow.

TUESDAY, March 1, 1825.

THE House met pursuant to adjournment.—PRAYERS.

On Motion, for the order of the day, the House resolved itself into a Committee of the whole House, to take into consideration the Address to his Excellency the Lieut. Governor, relative to the Free Port Act.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair,

The *Attorney General* took the Chair of the Committee,

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair,

The *Attorney General* Chairman of the Committee reported, That they had agreed to the Address, which was read, and is as follows:

"To His Excellency Colonel JOHN READY, Lieutenant Governor and Commander in Chief, in and over His Majesty's Island Prince Edward, and the Territories thereunto adjacent, Chancellor and Vice Admiral of the same, &c. &c. &c.

"May it please your Excellency,

"WE the Members of the House of Assembly, in Legislature convened, beg permission to call the attention of your Excellency to the Act of the third year of the King, intituled "an Act to regulate the trade between his Majesty's possessions in America and the West Indies, and other places in America and the West Indies."

"By this Statute the monopoly of the Colonial trade, which had theretofore been enjoyed by the mother country, has been greatly relaxed and a more extensive market has been opened to the commerce of the British possessions in North America, greatly to the benefit of all the neighbouring Colonies, each of which, has one or more ports from which

the free trade may be carried on, but by some oversight no Port within this Island is named in the Schedule to the said Act, whereby its inhabitants are altogether deprived of a commerce enjoyed by every other North American Colony.

"We beg leave to assure your Excellency, that a strong desire exists among the people of this Island, to participate in the benefit of this trade, and to be put in this respect on the same footing as their neighbours, and as by the sixteenth section of the aforesaid Act, his Majesty has the power, by order in Council, to extend its privileges and advantages to any Port or Ports not enumerated in the Schedule annexed to the Statute, we beg that your Excellency will be pleased to lay before the Right Honorable Earl Bathurst, Secretary of State for the Colonies, the preceding facts, and this House is persuaded that his Lordship will so represent the case of the Colony to the King, that his Majesty may be most graciously pleased to order that the name of one or more Ports of this Island may be inserted in the Schedule annexed to the said Statute.

"We further beg leave to suggest to your Excellency, that the Port of Charlotte-Town, the Port of Three Rivers, and the Port of Richmond Bay, are those which will most benefit the trade of this Island, by being made Free Ports.

"JOHN STEWART, Speaker."

Assembly Room, March 1, 1825.

Ordered, That the Report of the Committee be agreed to, and that the *Attorney General*, Mr. *Hodgson*, and Mr. *Cambridge*, be a Committee to wait on his Excellency with the said Address.