

**Sir P. Maitland, K. C. B. Lieutenant Governor.***Tuesday, 8th November, 1825.*

The House met.

Present.—Messrs. Attorney General, Beasley, Bidwell, Burke, Burnham, Hamilton, Hornor, Lyons, Matthews, McBride, McCall, McDonell, Randal, Rolph, Scollick, Thomson, and White.—17.

The Speaker declared the House adjourned for want of a quorum.

*Wednesday, 9th November, 1825.*

Present.—Messrs. Beasley, Bidwell, Burke, Burnham, Fothergill, Hamilton, Hornor, Ingersol, Lyons, Matthews, McBride, McCall, Playter, Randal, Rolph, Scollick, Thompson, Thomson, and White.—19.

At half past ten o'clock, A. M. the Speaker declared the House adjourned for want of a quorum.

*Thursday, 10th November, 1825.*

The Minutes of Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday were read.

The Speaker then informed the House that His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor had been pleased to open the present session with a most gracious speech from the Throne, of which, to prevent mistakes, he had obtained a copy.

The speech was then read as follows :

*Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council, and  
Gentlemen of the House of Assembly :*

I feel much pleasure in being able to congratulate you on the continuance of the general tranquillity which has been so propitious to the happiness and prosperity of the British Empire.

In this season of peace, the Councils of the Imperial Government have been occupied in measures which can scarcely fail to excite, throughout the dominions of the crown, an emulation of that spirit of industry and enterprise so eminently conspicuous in the Parent State.

We cannot but anticipate a material advancement of our Public Interests from the change, which has recently been made, in the commercial system of our mother country, as it respects her Colonies ; a change, which has avowedly for its object, to constitute them, in fact, integral parts of the Empire, and to give to their ports the character and privileges of ports of the United Kingdom.

The value of these measures, proceeding from a policy, liberal and generous beyond example, need not be enlarged upon : they have been received in the Colonies with feelings of the deepest gratitude, and it is not too much to say of them, that their tendency is to confer upon us all the commercial privileges of subjects of the United Kingdom, while we are exempt from those burthens by which the fleets and armies are maintained, which protect our trade and defend our soil.

The exceptions which have been admitted in the several enactments to which I have alluded, in order to regulate our intercourse with the United States of America, and to adjust more conveniently the navigation laws of the Empire to the trade upon our inland waters, are additional proofs of the attention of His Majesty's Government to the situation and interests of these Colonies.

We are also directly and most deeply concerned in the act which has been recently passed for admitting the Wheat of the North American Provinces into the United Kingdom. In the limited duration of that measure, and in the circumstance of its provisions being confined to the importation of grain, we cannot but perceive proofs of an apprehension on the part of the Imperial Parliament, that this indulgence which they are evidently desirous of extending to the Colonies, may be injurious to those great domestic interests which it is their care to protect. It is left to us, however, to hope that this act is the beginning of a system, which experience may prove to be as reconcilable with the general interests of the Empire, as it would be advantageous to these Provinces. If such shall happily be the result of the experiment, we may be assured that the indulgence will be readily placed upon a more permanent and more beneficial footing.

The good consequences which it was hoped would follow the permission of a direct importation of Tea from China, have been already in a great degree realized ; and it is most satisfactory to find that there no longer exists a temptation to that illicit trade which has been so deeply prejudicial to the public welfare.

*Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,*

The Public Accounts and Estimates shall be laid before you ; and I trust that you will make the necessary provision for the public service.

*Honourable Gentlemen and Gentlemen,*

You will direct your attention to such laws as are about to expire : among these is the act under which the Militia Pensions are at present paid—a provision which, I am persuaded, you will feel it an agreeable duty to renew.

When it is considered how much every description of improvement may be accelerated by the diligent and judicious aid of the Legislature, it is most satisfactory to reflect upon the rapid increase of our revenue, which cannot fail to accrue from several great and obvious causes.

The duties, which will henceforth be paid upon the one principal article of consumption which I have already noticed ; and the expansion of trade which must necessarily attend the increase of population, would of themselves justify such an expectation. In addition to these grounds of hope, the Arbitrators appointed under the statute of the Imperial Parliament have awarded to us a larger proportion of the duties received at Quebec than we have hitherto enjoyed—a decision which must directly and considerably augment our resources.

Under these advantages it is hoped that the existing pressure upon our Revenue will not much longer be felt, and it is most satisfactory that the prospect of more abundant means should present itself at a moment when an ardor for public improvement appears so generally to prevail.

It will be interesting to you to learn that within the present year His Majesty has caused a survey to be made of the British North American Provinces, by officers of eminent military skill, in order to ascertain the state of their defences, and by what means their security can most effectually be provided for. You will naturally rejoice in every such demonstration that the safety and welfare of this Colony are objects constantly present to the attention of the Parent State.

The several branches of the Legislature cannot but feel how much is due, on their part, towards the advancement of a Colony, which, under the blessing of Providence, enjoys so many advantages. By a zealous and cordial application to the public interests, much may be effected, and it will, at all times, be my pleasure, as it is my duty, to concur in such enactments as may appear to me to promise benefit to the country.

I am happy to have it at length in my power, by the consent of his Majesty's Government, to propose for your consideration, as I shall do by message, one measure which has long appeared to me extremely desirable, and which has for its object to set at rest the just apprehensions with respect to their civil rights which affect a very considerable portion of the population of this Province.

Mr. Hamilton gives notice that he will, on to-morrow, move for leave to bring in a bill to repeal an act of the 44th of the late King, chap. 1st, entitled, "An act for the better securing this Province against all seditious attempts or designs to disturb the tranquillity thereof."

Mr. Attorney General, seconded by Mr. Thompson, moves that this House will on to-morrow take into consideration the speech of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of this Session.

Which was carried.

Mr. McBride gives notice that he will, on Wednesday next, move for leave to bring in a bill to promote the progress of useful arts in this Province.