

The Gentlemen of the House of Assembly then withdrew, and in a short time returned, when Alexander Rae, Esquire addressed His Excellency and stated, that agreeably to His Excellency's Command, the House of Assembly had proceeded to the Election of a Speaker, and that their choice had fallen upon him.

The *President* of the Council then replied,

Alexander Rae, Esquire—

I am commanded by His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, to acquaint you, that he hath so good an opinion of your integrity, diligence and sufficiency for executing the important office to which you have been elected, that His Excellency is perfectly satisfied with the choice which the House of Assembly have made, and doth allow and confirm you to be their Speaker.

The Speaker then addressed His Excellency as follows :—

May it please your Excellency—

As you have been pleased to approve of the choice of the House of Assembly, in appointing me to be their Speaker, it now becomes my duty as such, to request of your Excellency, as the privilege of the House, that the Members thereof may be freed from arrest ; that they may have freedom of Speech in their Debates, and have free access to your Excellency on all occasions ; and I do in their name and behalf claim all their ancient rights and privileges.

Then the President of the Council replied in the following words :—

Mr. Speaker—

I am commanded by His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor to say, that His Excellency being fully assured of the prudence, loyalty, and good affection of the House of Assembly, most willingly grants them all their privileges, conformably to ancient usage, the Laws of the Land, and Her Majesty's instructions.

His Excellency was then pleased to open the Session with the following Speech :—

*Mr. President, and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council :*

*Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly :*

I have assembled you at the earliest possible period after the General Election, and I am confident that you will apply yourselves with zeal, and diligence, to the consideration of such measures as may tend to promote the welfare of the Colony.

I regret to announce to you the death of the Queen Dowager of England. The loss of that most excellent Princess has been deeply mourned by all classes of Her Majesty's Subjects, to whom her many eminent virtues rendered her the object of universal esteem and affection.