

JOURNAL

OF THE

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

OF

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

Second Session of the Seventeenth General Assembly.

TUESDAY, February 1, 1848.

THE House having, by several Proclamations, been prorogued until this day, then to meet for the dispatch of business:

And being met—

A Message from His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, by Henry Palmer, Esquire, Usher of the Black Rod:

Mr. Speaker;

His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor commands the immediate attendance of this Honorable House at the bar of the Council Chamber.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker and the House went up to attend His Excellency in the Council Chamber—and being returned,

Mr. Speaker reported, that when the House did attend His Excellency this day in the Council Chamber, His Excellency was pleased to make a Speech to both Houses of the Legislature, of which Mr. Speaker said he had, to prevent mistakes, obtained a copy, which he read to the House, and is as followeth:

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

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

Our Gracious Sovereign having been pleased to appoint me to the Government of this Island, I have much satisfaction in meeting you in your Legislative capacity, at this early period after my arrival, and I avail myself of the first opportunity of communicating

to you my earnest desire to administer the Government upon those just and impartial principles, which, whilst they will give me a claim to public confidence, will enable me, with your assistance, to contribute to the happiness and prosperity of this interesting and thriving Colony.

It devolves upon me now to submit for your consideration, several matters of much importance to the present and future welfare of the Colony. Among the most pressing of these, is the state of the Island Currency, a wholesome reform of which is urgently required. To assist your deliberations in effecting this desirable object, I shall direct to be laid before you the views entertained by Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, both as to the cause of the present state of the Currency, and its proposed remedy. To these views I must claim your serious and earnest attention.

The future management of the Post Office in the British North American Provinces, will also occupy a prominent position in your deliberations; Her Majesty's Post Master General being prepared to surrender to the Provincial Authorities the control of this department, so soon as by concert between the several Legislatures arrangements shall be matured for securing the advantages of an efficient and uniform system. The several communications upon this important question, together with the able Report of the Commissioners, appointed by the Provinces of Canada, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick, shall be laid before you.

The unfortunate sickness and distress which prevailed among the Emigrants from Ireland last year, has induced Her Majesty's Government to propose to the several Provincial Legislatures the enactment of