

*Ordered*, That Mr. Mortimer, Mr. Ritchie, and Mr. Haliburton, be a committee accordingly.

Then the House adjourned until To-morrow, at twelve of the clock. -

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*Wednesday, 19th February, 1817.*

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PRAYERS.

Mr. Haliburton, pursuant to leave given, presented a Bill to prevent the commencing of Suits in Counties where neither Party resides, and the same was read a first time.

*Resolved*, that the Bill be read a second time.

Mr. Speaker acquainted the House, that Mr. Secretary George had transmitted to him by order of his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, a petition of John Lawton, Archibald Gray and John Black, addressed to his Excellency, and by him recommended to the consideration of the House, and the said petition was read by the Clerk, and is as follows:

*May it please your Excellency,*

It is already known to your Excellency, that a number of Gentlemen of this Town, considering with regret the destitute situation to which the stagnation of Trade, the unusual rigour of the Season, and an unexpected influx of strangers have reduced many of the labouring Poor amongst us, have formed an association in the hope of relieving the two prevalent distresses.

The Inhabitants of the Town have contributed, by donations and subscriptions, towards this desirable object, with a liberality and readiness which call for the grateful acknowledgement of the Committee of the Association.

The Committee, however, find their Funds still very inadequate to the completion of their benevolent design: they are, therefore, induced, humbly, to request that your Excellency will recommend to the General Assembly of the Province, to grant the Committee, out of the Public Treasury, such aid as the Assembly, in their wisdom, shall judge expedient and proper; and thereupon,

On motion of Mr. Cunningham, *resolved*, That this House will, to-morrow take into consideration the foregoing Petition.

A Petition of Alexander Burket was presented by Mr. Harris, and read, praying for a Drawback of the Impost Duty on 650 gallons of Rum, and 17 cwt. and 14 lbs. Brown Sugar, imported by him from New Brunswick, in the year 1813, and purchased with the Produce of the Province, amounting to 10l. 5s. 3d.

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