

*Mr. President and Honorable Gentlemen of the Council,
Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,*

His Excellency's Speech

I invite your attention to a dispatch from my Lord Glenelg of the 3rd January on the subject of Crown Lands—you will observe under what limitations I am therein permitted to assent to an Act for their future regulation.

Until such an act be presented for my acceptance or till the end of this Session I shall adhere to existing Rules, but should no Legislative Enactment be made I am directed, as you will perceive, to pursue a new system in the alienation of the Lands of the Crown.

I have to recur to my former proposition for a revision of the 5th Wm. 4th, (2d session,) cap. 5, and of the 4th Wm. 4th, (2d session,) cap. 6, with reference to the probable expediency of their consolidation into one Act.

In connection with this subject the report of the commissioners for the regulation of statute labor, which was last year submitted to you, I again recommend as worthy of particular and favorable attention.

The Act for the more speedy abatement of nuisances seems likewise capable of improvement, and on this point I shall supply you with transcripts of a communication from the Police Magistrates of St. John's.

A review of the present scale of fees is much to be desired. It would be, perhaps, advisable that certain Public Functionaries should have a sufficient salary totally independant of fees, which, in such case, might with a rateable deduction for collection be carried to the general account, and that every description of service, for which officers can claim remuneration, should be ascertained by Law.

I will only further occupy your time to say that on the topics to which I have adverted, or on others which may be discussed either in the Council or in the House of Assembly, I shall be happy to afford such information as I possess and to facilitate your operations to the utmost of my power.

On motion of Mr. Kent, seconded by Mr. Power,

Resolved,—That a committee be appointed to prepare an humble address to be presented to his Excellency the Governor, in answer to his Excellency's speech at the opening of the session.

Resolution for committee to prepare address in answer thereto.

Ordered,—That Mr. Kent, Mr. Power, the Solicitor General, and Mr. Doyle, do form such committee.

Committee.

Mr. Speaker laid before the House a Letter from Charles Simms, Esq., Solicitor of the House, which was read by the Clerk as follows :

Letter of C. Simms Esq. read.

*St. John's, Newfoundland, }
20th June, 1838. }*

SIR,—I take leave to inform you that his Excellency the Governor has been pleased to appoint me to the situation of Police Magistrate for the Central district of this Island, and I apprehend that the duties of the Magistracy may be deemed to be incompatible with the office of Solicitor to the Hon. the House of Assembly, which I have had the honor to hold for a period of upwards of five years.