

“ It is most gratifying to me to be able to state to you, that this Province continues progressively to increase in its population and general prosperity; at the same time it is incumbent on me to point out, that your usual aid and encouragement to the several Institutions connected with its welfare, will be necessary; and particularly to recommend, as a matter of serious consideration, to devise some plan for the more prompt payment of the public creditor, for the want of which I have been unable to put in execution many important services for which you had provided.

“ From that adherence to the principles of the British Laws, which is observable in almost all our Provincial Acts, I feel confident that I shall not be disappointed in recommending to your most indulgent attention, the situation of one class of confined Debtors; and further, that you will see it expedient to visit the state of our Prisons, and provide for the removal of any legal impediment that may exist, by which the Prisoners are deprived of the use of Gaol Yards.

“ *Gentlemen of the Assembly,*

“ I shall order the public accounts, and all other papers that may be deemed requisite for your information, to be laid before you; and I am happy to state, that the Revenue of the last year has not fallen short of the preceding one, and, when collected, will be equal to meet every demand.

“ I have to recommend to your early attention, the making provision for the ordinary services of the Province; and I shall from time to time during the Session, bring under your consideration such others as may appear to me to be necessary.

“ *Gentlemen of the Council,
and Gentlemen of the Assembly,*

“ After the close of the last Session of the Assembly, I commissioned an Officer, with adequate powers, to inspect and report on the state of the Militia in the different Counties, giving him the necessary instructions.

“ This service he has performed to my entire satisfaction; and copies of his report shall be laid before you, by which the importance of his duties, and the necessity of this service being continued, will evidently appear.”

Mr. *Stubs* moved for leave to bring in a bill, “ to repeal an Act, intituled “ An Act to prevent the importation or spreading of Infectious Distempers “ within this Province,” and to make more effectual provision for the same.”
Leave granted.

On motion of Mr. *C. Simonds*, resolved that an humble Address be presented to His Excellency the *Lieutenant-Governor*, in answer to his Speech.

Ordered that Mr. *Simonds*, Mr. *Ritchie*, Mr. *Stubs*, and Mr. *H. Peters*, be a Committee for that purpose.

On motion, ordered that *John Allen* and *Harry Peters*, be a Committee to attend the Commissioner and see *Richard Simonds*, a Member returned for the County of Northumberland, now attending and praying to be admitted to his seat, qualified.

On motion of Mr. *Fraser*, ordered that the *Speaker* do issue his Warrant to the Clerk of the Crown, to make out a new Writ for the electing of a Member to serve in General Assembly for the County of York, in the room of *Stair Agnew*, Esquire, deceased.

On motion of Mr. *Stubs*, ordered that the KING's Printer do forthwith strike off eighty copies of His Excellency the *Lieutenant-Governor's* Speech to this House.

On motion of Mr. *Smith*, ordered that the Journal of this House be daily, or so soon as a copy of the same can be prepared by the Clerk, printed by the KING's Printer, and that he furnish eighty copies thereof for the use of the Legislature.