

*Thursday, 14th December, 1848.*

*His Excellency SIR J. G. LE MARCHANT, Governor.*

*Honourable Gentlemen and Gentlemen of the Assembly :*

The President declares His Excellency's pleasure that the Assembly choose a Speaker.

I am commanded by His Excellency the Governor to acquaint you that His Excellency does not think fit to declare the causes for which he has summoned the Legislature until there be a Speaker of the House of Assembly ; it is therefore His Excellency's pleasure that you, Gentlemen of the House of Assembly, do forthwith repair to your Chamber, and there choose a fit person to be your Speaker, and that you present the person whom you shall have so chosen to His Excellency in this House for his approbation.

The Assembly retire.

The House of Assembly then withdrew.

The Assembly summoned to attend.

At a quarter past One of the Clock, the Honourable the President commanded the Serjeant-at-Arms to acquaint the Assembly that it is His Excellency's pleasure that they attend here immediately in this House—who, being come.

Mr. WINSER said—

*May it please Your Excellency,*

Mr. Winsor presents Mr. Kent as Speaker.

The House of Assembly, in obedience to Your Excellency's commands, have proceeded to the election of a Speaker, and I now have the honour to present to Your Excellency John Kent, Esquire, Member for St. John's, whom they have unanimously chosen to fill that office.

The President of the Council then said—

The Governor confirms Mr. Kent as Speaker.

Mr. KENT,—His Excellency the Governor commands me to declare to you, that in full assurance of your ability, discretion, and zeal, he entirely approves of the choice which the Assembly have made, and does confirm and allow you to be their Speaker.

Then the Speaker of the Assembly said—

*May it please Your Excellency,*

The Speaker entreats from His Excellency the privileges of his office.

Your Excellency having been pleased to approve of the choice the House of Assembly have made of me to be their Speaker, it becomes my duty as such, in the name of the Representatives of Her Majesty's loyal subjects, the people of Newfoundland, humbly to demand that they may have freedom of speech in their debates—that they and their servants may be free from arrest—and that whenever Her Majesty's service and the interests of the Colony may require it, I, as their Speaker, may have free access to Your Excellency's person.

I have also humbly to request that the same disposition which has induced Your Excellency to approve of the choice which the Assembly have made of me to be their Speaker, will lead Your Excellency to put the same favourable