

THURSDAY, 27th NOVEMBER, 1834.

His Majesty has now no choice left but to direct the Quit Rents to be collected. It is not without much reluctance that His Majesty has recourse to this measure, but the necessity of the case is apparent. The indispensable Officers of the Government must be provided for, and if, after a consideration which has extended over years, no other resource can be found by the Legislature of Nova-Scotia, His Majesty must enforce his just rights to the Quit Rents, rather than suffer the affairs of the Colony to fall into confusion, for want of sufficient means to maintain institutions which are necessary to the existence of every community. I have the satisfaction, however, to acquaint you, that I am still authorised to abstain from levying the Quit Rents should the Assembly make in lieu of them a permanent Grant to the Crown of Two Thousand Pounds sterling per annum. Should you, Gentlemen, deem it desirable so to commute them, it would be the means of freeing the Landholders from the payment of a Rent of nearly triple the amount, the collection of which might prove irksome and inconvenient to them. But should you deem that inexpedient, I have no choice left but to comply with my instructions, and order their immediate collection.

I have desired the annual value of the Quit Rents, and of the arrears due to the Crown since midsummer, 1831, to which period they had been remitted by His Majesty, to be laid before you, so as to enable you to come to a just, and, I trust, final arrangement with respect to them.

I have thought it best to state frankly, in this my first communication with you, the object for which you are brought together. In all our subsequent intercourse, I trust you will find me equally candid and open; and, as we have now met for the dispatch of business, I have deemed it right to bring at once under your consideration that business which has occasioned your being convened at an earlier period than usual.

It will be a source of pride and gratification to me, if, at the commencement of my Government, I am enabled, through your means, to extricate my Administration from the difficulties with which it is at present threatened.

I cannot allow myself to anticipate, that the Assembly of Nova-Scotia, a body always distinguished for its moderation and loyalty, will expose His Majesty to the grave inconvenience of having no means to pay to the officers of the Government their accustomed remuneration, which is now nearly one year in arrear. There are many other important matters which will engage your attention during the Session. Such as I find it my duty to convey to you, I shall do so by Message, and I feel persuaded you will give them your best consideration.

This Province, I regret to say, has not altogether been exempted from feeling commercial distress; it has equally pervaded other countries, but our commerce, though diminished, has not suffered in any material degree, but which may, in a great measure, be remedied by your public spirit and vigilance, and by enacting and enforcing such laws as may check the illicit trade which is carried on to a great extent, to the detriment of the revenue, and to the loss and prejudice of the merchant and fair dealer.

It has pleased the Almighty to bless this Province with an abundant harvest, which cannot fail to secure to the inhabitants plenty and independence.

The Epidemic Cholera, which unfortunately carried off so many of the Inhabitants of the Town during the Autumn, has disappeared for the present. We should be thankful to the Almighty that it did not extend into the Province, and prove more destructive. We should take warning, and use every precaution to mitigate the ravages of this frightful disease, should it again unhappily visit us, by establishing an efficient and vigilant Police, who will enforce cleanliness and temperance, and see that such nuisances as endanger the health of the Town are removed. The charitable donations given by individuals, during the prevalence of the Cholera, were liberal and praiseworthy; the exertions of the Gentlemen composing the Board of Health, and of the Health Wardens, entitle them to my warmest thanks and approbation, and to the gratitude of the public. I feel much pleasure in making known to the Assembly, and to the People of Nova-Scotia, that the Parent State, on learning the affliction with which this Town was visited, sent a liberal sum of money to be applied in relieving destitute Emigrants, and others who had acquired no claim upon this community for assistance.

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

The Public Accounts have been made up to the end of September, but as I conceive it will be more satisfactory to you to have the Accounts of the whole year before you, I have ordered them to be continued to 31st December.

I trust that you will find the Supplies granted to His Majesty last year have been faithfully applied. I have desired that an account of the expence attending the Cholera Hospital, &c. may be submitted to you; I have no doubt but that the expenditure incurred you will readily sanction. I have also desired that the Estimates for the ensuing year may be submitted to you; they are prepared with the most anxious attention to all necessary and useful economy.

*Mr. President, and Gentlemen of the Council,*

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

My most earnest and ardent desire, and the first object of my ambition, are to be useful to the Province