

*Tuesday, 5th December, 1826.*

SIR PEREGRINE MAITLAND, K. C. B. *Lieutenant Governor.*

# LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

## UPPER CANADA.

*York, 5th December, 1826.*

THE Provincial Legislature having been, by Proclamation, Prorogued to this day, several Members assembled accordingly, at half past twelve o'clock.

### PRESENT.

THE HONORABLE WILLIAM CAMPBELL, SPEAKER,  
“ “ JAMES BABY,  
“ “ JOHN M'GILL,  
“ “ GEORGE CROOKSHANK,  
“ “ JOSEPH WELLS,  
“ “ DUNCAN CAMERON,  
“ “ JOHN HENRY DUNN,  
“ “ THOMAS RIDOUT,  
“ “ WILLIAM ALLAN.

The Speaker informed the House that John Powell, Esquire, Clerk of this House, was prevented by ill health, from attending his duty in the House, and that HIS EXCELLENCY the LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR has been pleased to appoint James Fitz Gibbon, Esquire, to act as Clerk to the House, during the absence of Mr. Powell.

The Hon. the Speaker informs the House of the ill health and absence of the Clerk.

At one o'clock, HIS EXCELLENCY the LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR having come to the Legislative Council Chamber, and being seated on the Throne, the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod was directed to command the attendance of the Speaker and Members of the Commons House of Assembly at the Bar of this House, and they being come thereto, HIS EXCELLENCY was pleased to address both Houses of the Provincial Parliament in the following words :—

His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor opens the Session.

*Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council, and  
Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,*

AFTER the usual interval, you are again convened to discharge those duties of which the correct and diligent performance is most essential to the welfare and happiness of the people.

His Excellency's Speech.

Since you were last assembled, no material change has taken place in that general condition of affairs upon which I had it in my power to congratulate you at the opening of the last Session; except, that, from causes variously assigned, the Commercial and Agricultural interests of Great Britain have experienced depression to a degree of which few examples are to be found in her History. We have reason now to indulge a confident hope that the calamity is fast passing away; and in the mean time, it must confirm our admiration of the excellent Civil Institutions of our Parent State, to find that under so extraordinary a pressure they have continued unshaken, and that she is, even at such a moment, extending in the fullest degree, the blessings of her protection and care to every portion of her Dominions.

During the recess, I have had it in my power to visit the several Districts of this Province; and I have been exceedingly gratified to find, in all of them, unequivocal proofs of advancement, and to receive from the people the most earnest assurances of their contentment, and of their very grateful sense of the abundant good which they enjoy under the truly Paternal Government of their Sovereign.

The advancement which I have every where observed, is the more satisfactory, as it is not the hasty work of speculation, and depends on no doubtful basis; but is, on the contrary, substantial, and regularly progressive.

In contemplating the growth of civil Society in this Province, it cannot escape attention, that as the interests of Individuals are becoming more important, and their combinations more various, the want of Courts of Equity, and perhaps some other imperfections in our system of Jurisprudence, which may for a time have been little felt, must soon produce