

17th May, 1839.

FOURTH SESSION, SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY, 2nd VICTORIA.

that matter till the receipt of further advices from his Lordship, which may, I presume, be shortly expected.

At the commencement of the last Session, I laid before you a Despatch from Lord Glenelg respecting the Colonial Act for the extension of the Criminal Law of England to this Island. No step appears to have been taken in accordance with His Lordship's recommendation; but as a proper consideration and selection of such English laws as may be suitable to Newfoundland, must be a work of time as well as of great importance, and as Her Majesty's decision upon the Act is suspended until the result of Lord Glenelg's suggestion shall be known, I feel persuaded that this point will engage your early attention.

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

The usual financial statements, and the Estimates for the ensuing year, shall be immediately laid before you.

The pressure of extreme distress in this populous town, has compelled me to exceed the sum allotted for the relief of the poor. The increased aid under my direction has been confined to the Indigent Sick—to Paupers impotent from age or infirmity—to Idiots and Orphan children.

I hope that a careful enquiry will enable you to ascertain the quantum of relief requisite for the wretched and helpless—the legitimate objects of public care.

Confiding in the benevolence of the Legislature, I have not hesitated to assume a responsibility on this occasion, for which I trust that there will not be any future necessity.

I have to remind you that the last Appropriation Act was not passed till the 25th of October, although the financial year commences with July—as, under such circumstance, the machinery of Government must either stand still or be continued in action by the unauthorized command of the Executive, you will probably think it right, by an early application to the subject of the Public expenditure, to prevent the recurrence of that dilemma.

Your attention will necessarily be directed to the preparation of a new Revenue Bill, as the existing Act only extends to the 18th of next November.

Mr. President, and Honorable Gentlemen of the Council;

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

I have in former Addresses recommended some measures for your consideration, respecting which I shall at all times be ready to give every information in my power.

Although our financial state would not justify my making, at present, any suggestion entailing considerable or immediate expense, yet, having been long of opinion that great advantage would be derived from the employment of a Diving Bell for the removal of all natural and artificial obstructions from the Port of St. John's, I have made some preliminary enquiries connected with that object, the result of which I shall lay before you.

The Act 2nd Victoria, cap. 3, does not prescribe reports to be made to me by the Commissioners appointed therein; I cannot, therefore, supply you with any precise information as to the progress of our Roads; but of the funds lately provided for the prosecution of this important work a large proportion is, as yet, unapplied.

Such reports as I receive from the respective District Boards for Education shall be presented to you.

I trust that benefit, although not so great or general as might be desired, is derived from the Colonial Act for the promotion of this essential object, upon which I will not further remark at present, because the remaining two years to which the operation of the Act is limited, will afford better means and opportunity of forming a correct judgment respecting it.

It gives me pleasure to inform you that the President of the London Geological Society has, at my request, recommended a Gentleman fully competent to undertake the Survey for which you made provision last year. This Gentleman, a Graduate of Cambridge, to whose merit high testimonials have been furnished by the Geological Professor of that University,