

FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 1833.

ON motion, the House resolved itself into a Committee of the whole House, on the consideration of the general state of the Colony.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. COZENS took the Chair of the Committee.

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

The Chairman reported from the Committee, that they had made some progress in the business to them referred, and had come to a Resolution thereupon, which they had directed him to report to the House. And he read the same in his place, and afterwards delivered it in at the clerk's table, where it was read, and is as follows:—

*Resolved*,—That it is the opinion of this Committee that an address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, setting forth the peculiar circumstances un-

der which the Colony now stands, owing to the rejection, by the Legislative Council, of the Revenue Bill, and praying that His Excellency would be pleased to inform the House whether he possesses any power by which the Colony may be relieved from its present embarrassment.

The said Resolution was read throughout a first and second time, and, upon the question put thereon, agreed to by the House.

*Ordered*,—That Mr. THOMAS, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. PACK, Mr. HOYLES and Mr. KOUGH, be a Committee for preparing an address, in pursuance of the foregoing Resolution.

Then the House adjourned until to-morrow at eleven of the Clock.

SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 1833.

MR. THOMAS reported from the Committee appointed to prepare an Address to His Excellency the Governor, in pursuance of the Resolution of yesterday, that the Committee had drawn up an Address accordingly, and he afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's table, where it was read, and is as follows:—

*To His Excellency Sir THOMAS JOHN COCHRANE, Knight, Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Island of Newfoundland and its Dependencies, &c. &c. &c.*

May it please your Excellency,

We, the Representatives of His Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the people of Newfoundland, beg leave, at this time, humbly to bring to the notice of your Excellency, the circumstances of embarrassment in which this Colony is placed, owing to the rejection, by the Legislative Council, of the Bill lately passed in the House of Assembly, granting to His Majesty certain duties on all wines, and on all brandy, gin, rum, and other spirituous liquors imported into this Island.

In the early part of the Session your Excellency was pleased to lay before us an Estimate of the Civil Establishment of the Colony, and also a statement of the sum necessary to be raised, in addition to the small amount of Revenue at present at our disposal, for the purpose of defraying the charges of the Civil Establishment for the current year.

After having obtained, through application to your Excellency, those documents and that information requisite to enable us to judge of the propriety and necessity of the supplies to be voted, we did, in due time, take into our mature consideration the ways and means of raising such additional amount of Revenue as would meet the public expenses of the Government, and in imposing the duties mentioned in the Bill for granting to His Majesty certain duties on all wines,

and on all brandy, gin, rum, and other spirituous liquors imported into this Island, we not only cautiously avoided interfering with the operation of any Act of the Imperial Parliament, for the regulation of the trade of the British Possessions, now in force, but we also exercised our best judgment in the selection of such articles as we considered legitimate objects of taxation, by imposing those duties on articles of luxury—carefully abstaining from increasing the price of anything necessary for the support of the poor; and in framing the Bill we had further in view, the collection of the duties imposed by it, at the least possible expense.

This Bill, after having passed through the regular stages in the Lower House, without a dissentient voice, was subsequently sent to the Legislative Council for concurrence, but to our great surprise and astonishment, was rejected by that body, on the ground that the Legislature of this Colony does not possess the power of imposing duties upon any articles imported into it, already subject to duty under any act of the Imperial Parliament. And if the arguments sought to be supported by the Legislative Council can be maintained, such is the nature of the commerce and the circumstances of the people of this Island, that it would be impossible for us to raise the monies necessary for the support of the Government and for other public purposes; since without the power of levying taxes upon articles imported into the Island, there is not, in our opinion, any other mode by which a Revenue adequate to the wants of the Colony could be raised. But, notwithstanding the opinion of the Legislative Council to the contrary, manifested by the rejection of the Revenue Bill, we are decidedly of opinion, that we do not only possess the power of raising a Revenue, by imposing duties upon the articles mentioned in the Bill which has been lost, but that, in the course which we have upon this occasion pursued, we are borne out by the Acts of the Legislatures of the neighbouring Colonies,