

COUNCIL CHAMBER,

TUESDAY, March 20, 1827.

In pursuance of the foregoing Proclamation His Majesty's Council met.

PRESENT.

The Hon. George Wright, President.

Honorables { *William Pleace,*
Ambrose Lane,
Thos. H. Haviland,
Charles Worrell.

His Excellency the Lieut. Governor, having come to the Council Chamber, and being seated, the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod received his Excellency's commands to inform the House of Assembly, "that it is his Excellency's pleasure that they do attend him in the Council Chamber instantler;"—and the House of Assembly having come, his Excellency was then pleased to open the Session with the following Speech.

Mr. President, and Gentlemen of his Majesty's Council;

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

I meet you on the present occasion with the feelings which are naturally inspired by a strong impression of the improving state of this Island, and by a persuasion equally strong, that the labours of the Session, will, under the guidance of a spirit no less prudent than patriotic, result in measures conducive to the stability and prosperity of the Colony.

It is with great grief and sorrow that I have to announce to you the death of his Royal Highness the Duke of York, Heir presumptive to the British Crown, and Commander in Chief of the Army, whose loss will be most severely felt, and long and deeply deplored.

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

I shall direct the proper Officers to lay before you the Public Accounts, and I have the fullest reliance on your readiness to make due provision for the Public Service.

Mr. President, and Gentlemen of his Majesty's Council;

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

Much improvement has been made in our internal communications since I last met you. The Western Line of Road has been completed up to Prince Town. Surveys have been made for the purpose of carrying on this line to Cascumpeque and the North Cape, its final object.

The Roads to George Town, the Bay of Fortune, and other settlements, have undergone material improvement.

The establishment of an Inland Post cannot fail to be of essential benefit, as affording the means of a speedy and safe communication with our more distant population, and of conveying to them a knowledge of the Laws and proceedings of the Government, which, while it contributes to the secu-

urity of the people, serves also to guard them against the effects of misrepresentation and misconception.

Being strongly impressed with the advantage the Colony would derive from the establishment of an Agricultural Society, I feel desirous of recommending it to your consideration; also the fitness of some encouragement for the commencement of George Town and Prince Town; the former appears particularly eligible for a Fishery, a trade for which the shores of this Island are peculiarly adapted.

The state of the Gaol, Public Buildings, and other matters, I shall take an opportunity of submitting to you by message, as affording the means of a more distinct explanation.

It is particularly pleasing to me to be able to state to you, that, notwithstanding the great depression in a leading branch of the commerce of the Colony, and the embarrassments which have surrounded the mercantile World, a very considerable increase has taken place in the Revenue over that of the preceding year, which cannot fail to encourage you in the pursuit of such measures as may confirm and uphold so favourable a situation.

These circumstances must also render you peculiarly anxious for the continuance of that harmony and unanimity which have marked your former proceedings, and which it is my most ardent desire to promote and maintain.

J. READY,
Lt. Governor.

The Speech being ended, his Excellency was pleased to retire; and the House of Assembly having withdrawn, the President reported his Excellency's Speech, which being read by the Clerk—

Resolved, *nem. con.* that an humble address be presented to his Excellency, to return his Excellency the thanks of this House, for his Speech delivered this day; when the Honorables *William Pleace, T. H. Haviland,* and *Charles Worrell,* were appointed a committee to prepare an address pursuant to the above resolution.

Ordered, on motion, that the Reverend *Louis Charles Jenkins* be requested to attend his Majesty's Council to-morrow at one o'clock, and each succeeding day during the Session, for the purpose of reading prayers.

On motion, it was ordered, that the Honorables *A. Lane* and *Charles Worrell,* be appointed a committee for revising the Journals of this House each day.

Adjourned until to-morrow at 1 o'clock.