

County, and the House appearing to be unanimous; Mr. *Peters*, was taken from his seat and conducted to the Chair, and when on the steps, he expressed himself as follows :

" Having been so unexpectedly elected to an office of such high importance, I feel myself greatly embarrassed ; for when I look round me and see so many Honorable Members, whose long experience and constitutional knowledge would give them a stronger claim, and when I feel so sensibly my inability to discharge the duties of this high trust:- I cannot but be convinced that it would tend more to promote the Public Interest, if the House would consent to reconsider their choice.

But the House persisting, Mr. *Peters* then said " That submitting to your commands, I claim your indulgence and support."

Mr. *Peters* then took the Chair *nem con*.

A Message from His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor by the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, requiring the immediate attendance of the House in the Council Chamber, whereupon Mr. *Speaker* elect, with the House attended His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor ;

And being returned, Mr. *Speaker* informed the House that he had addressed His Excellency in the words following :---

" May it please your Excellency,

" The House of Assembly in obedience to your Excellency's Command, and in the exercise of their undoubted right, have proceeded to the choice of a Speaker, and now humbly attend your Excellency to present me as the person chosen ; deeply sensible of my inability to discharge the duties of so important an office, I pray that your Excellency will be pleased to disapprove of their choice and command them to elect a more fit person."

The Honorable Mr. Chief Justice *Saunders*, spoke as follows :---

" *Harry Peters, Esq.*"---I am commanded by His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, to acquaint you that he hath so good an opinion of your integrity, diligence and sufficiency for executing the important office, into which you are elected, that His Excellency is perfectly satisfied with the choice which the House of Assembly have made, and doth allow and confirm you to be their Speaker."

And that then His Excellency was pleased to make a Speech to both Houses, and that to prevent mistakes he had procured a copy of the same, which he read to the House, and is as follows :---

" Mr. President, and Gentleman of His Majesty's Council,

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

66 **I** HAVE called you together at this early period, to bring, as soon as possible, under your humane, wise, and liberal consideration, the calamitous effects which the Province has suffered from a late awful visitation.

" It hath pleased Almighty God to permit extensive and direful ravages to be committed, by fire, in several parts of the Province. Here, in the Seat of Government, the loss, though great, has, mercifully ! been confined to that of Property ; but in other quarters, the conflagrations raged with more fatal fury. A very flourishing County Town has been consumed ; extensive and thriving settlements have been destroyed ; and great numbers of our fellow creatures have perished in the flames. Of those who escaped from the fury of this element, many suffered in another. Hundreds of the survivors were driven, destitute, upon the hospitality and charity of their fellow subjects : Numerous Persons have been reduced  
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