

The Act, 7 Will. 4, cap. 32, intituled 'An Act for the increase of the Revenue of this Island,' will expire on the 7th day of May next.

*Ordered*, That the above Report be referred to a Committee of the whole House to-morrow.

Mr. Douse, from the Special Committee appointed to prepare and report the draught of an Address in answer to the Speech of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, to both Houses, at the opening of the present Session, reported the draught of an Address, as prepared by the Committee—and he read the same in his place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's Table, where it was again read, and is as follows :

*To His Excellency Sir Charles Augustus Fitz Roy, K. H., Lieutenant Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over Her Majesty's Island Prince Edward, and its Dependencies, Chancellor, Vice Admiral and Ordinary of the same, &c. &c. &c.*

May it please your Excellency ;

We Her Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Representatives of Prince Edward Island, in Colonial Parliament assembled, have to thank your Excellency for your Speech at the opening of the present Session.

We beg to congratulate your Excellency on your appointment to the Government of this Colony; and we fully appreciate the motives which induced your Excellency to call us together at a time best suited to our convenience, and to facilitate the public business.

We hail with much pleasure your Excellency's earnest desire to conduct the Government upon the most impartial, just and constitutional principles ; and we beg to assure your Excellency, that we shall feel at all times most willing to co-operate with your Excellency in promoting such measures as may be conducive to the happiness and welfare of the inhabitants.

We sincerely sympathise with your Excellency on the demise of our late beloved Sovereign—a Monarch who unceasingly evinced a peculiar interest in the welfare and prosperity of his Colonial Dominions. Turning from this painful subject, we hail with joy the auspicious commencement of the Reign of his successor, our Most Gracious Queen Victoria.

We deeply regret the revolutionary spirit which has appeared in two of the neighbouring Colonies, and entailed upon them the horrors of civil war ; but we feel confident that should the inhabitants of this Island be ever called upon to defend the Throne and Government, the loyalty and attachment of the people will not be found wanting to uphold the rights and principles of the Constitution under which we have the happiness to live.

With your Excellency, we have to express our heartfelt

gratitude to Divine Providence, for the late favourable harvest, and the blessings consequent thereon ; and we fervently hope, that we may never again be called to witness such wide spread distress as was occasioned by the failure of the crops of the preceding year.

We cordially concur with your Excellency, as to the great importance of Education to the well being of society; and it is particularly gratifying to us to find, that our endeavours to promote this desirable object are so much in accordance with the views entertained by your Excellency.

We trust that the pleasing anticipations of our future prosperity, formed by your Excellency, from your recent visit to the different parts of the Island, will be fully realized.

In common with your Excellency, we sincerely regret that agitation still prevails on the subject of Escheat; and while we express our conviction that the extreme measure sought for by its principal advocates can never be realized, we lament that the Imperial Government has not ere this acceded to the repeated applications of the Legislature for the establishment of a tribunal, which, entertaining a due regard for the just prerogatives of the Crown and the sacred rights of property, might institute an inquiry as to the fulfilment of the conditions under which the Lands of this Colony are held. Such a proceeding would have materially tended to allay the excitement which still continues. But while a sense of duty compels us thus to express our sentiments on so important a subject, we beg to assure your Excellency, that you may firmly rely on our determination to support, by every means in our power, the inviolability of the laws, and to suppress any attempt which may be made by designing or disaffected persons to subvert the same, or create a spirit of insubordination in the Colony.

We shall be glad to receive any information on the subject of Prison Discipline, which your Excellency may be pleased to communicate; and any other matters connected with the interest of the Colony shall receive our best consideration.

Your Excellency may rely that, on receiving the Public Accounts, this House will be ready to make due provision for the public service.

We accept with pleasure your Excellency's invitation to an open and unreserved communication on all questions in which the benefit of the inhabitants of this Island is concerned, and of which we shall avail ourselves, as circumstances may require.

We thank your Excellency for having noticed that harmony and unanimity, which you are pleased to remark as having characterised our former proceedings with the other branches of the Legislature, and trust that nothing may occur to prevent their continuance.

*Ordered*, That the said draught Address be now committed to a Committee of the whole House.