

" Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,

" When I met you at the commencement of the present Session, I had no reason to doubt your moderation or your prudence, and I therefore willingly relied upon both. Under the guidance of these principles, I expected from you a manly sacrifice of all personal animosities, and individual dissatisfaction, a watchful solicitude for the concerns of your country, and a steady perseverance in the executing of your public duty, with zeal and dispatch. I looked for earnest endeavours to promote the general harmony, of the Province, and a careful abstinence from whatever might have a tendency to disturb it; for due, and therefore indispensable attention to the other branches of the Legislature, and for prompt and chearful co-operation, and assistance, in whatever might conduce to the happiness and welfare of the Colony. All this I had a right to expect, because such was your constitutional duty; because, such a conduct would have been a lasting testimony, as it was the only one sought for by His Majesty's Government, of that loyalty and affection, which you have so warmly professed, and which I believe you to possess; and because it was particularly called for by the critical conjuncture of the times, and especially by the precarious situation in which we then stood, with respect to the American States. I am sorry to add, that I have been disappointed in all these expectations, and in every hope on which I relied.

" You have wasted in fruitless debates, excited by private and personal animosities, or by frivolous contests, upon trivial matters of form, that time and those talents to which, within your walls, the public have an exclusive title; this abuse of your functions, you have preferred to the high and important duties which you owe to your Sovereign, and to your constituents; and you have, thereby, been forced to neglect the consideration of matters of moment and necessity, which were before you, while you have at the same time virtually prevented the introduction of such others, as may have been in contemplation. If any further proof of this misuse of your time were necessary, I have just presented it, in having been called on, after a session of five weeks, to exercise His Majesty's prerogative of assent, to only the
same