

“ *Gentlemen of the Council, and*

“ *Gentlemen of the Assembly,*

“ THE Administration of this Government in the absence of His Ex-
“ CELLENCY the LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR having devolved upon me,
“ it becomes my duty now to call your attention to the exigencies of the
“ Public Service; this being the time beyond which, from the arrangements
“ made at your last Session, it appears to have been intended not to defer
“ a meeting of the General Assembly.

“ His MAJESTY'S Dominions are again involved in a War, which, like
“ the last, has been made inevitable by the unbridled ambition of France,
“ and which threatens again to spread far and wide amongst her European
“ Powers, and to their distant dependencies.

“ At this time, therefore, the framing of a Law for the more effectual
“ regulation of our Militia, together with such other provisional measures
“ as may appear to be requisite for the defence of the Province, will claim
“ your attentive consideration.

“ Among the local provisions which in this view, have been thought ex-
“ pedient, a Law has been lately enacted in the neighbouring Province of
“ *Lower Canada* “ for the encouragement of persons who shall apprehend
“ Deserters from His MAJESTY'S regular Forces,” and I recommend to
“ your consideration the making of a similar provision here, where experi-
“ ence has taught us it is no less requisite.

“ The revisal or continuance of such temporary Laws as have been found
“ beneficial, will, of course, be also an object of your attention.

“ *Gentlemen of the Assembly,*

“ By the accounts which will be laid before you, it appears that the
“ Duties imposed in the last Session have fallen short of expectation. Many
“ of the Public Creditors are still unpaid, and the improvements of the
“ Roads have, for the most part, been unavoidably deferred. This subject
“ will therefore require your particular attention, and the experience of the
“ evils flowing from a want of punctuality in the payments of the Treasury,
“ will, I hope, induce you to prevent their recurrence, by making effectual
“ provision for these cases, and for all future appropriations.

“ *Gentlemen of the Council, and*

“ *Gentlemen of the Assembly,*

“ I feel greatly relieved from the anxieties naturally arising from the
“ trust committed to my care, when I reflect on your Loyalty and patriotic
“ Zeal; being well assured, that we are all actuated by the same hope, and
“ ready to devote our lives to secure the same objects, the welfare of
“ Great-Britain and her Colonies.”

On Motion,

RESOLVED, That an Humble Address be presented to His Honor
the PRESIDENT, in answer to the foregoing Speech.—ORDERED, that
Mr. Agnew, Mr. Leonard, Mr. Robert Pagan, Mr. Wilson, and Mr. Jarvis
be a Committee to prepare the said Address.

THE HOUSE in Committee (Mr. M'Lean in the Chair) went into the con-
sideration of the PRESIDENT'S Speech. The *Speaker* having resumed the
Chair, the Chairman Reported, that it is the opinion of the Committee that
a Bill be brought in to regulate the Militia of this Province; and a Bill to
apprehend Deserters from His MAJESTY'S regular Forces; and a Bill to re-
vive what Laws have, or are near expiring, which, Report is agreed to, and
THEREUPON ORDERED, that Mr. M'Kay, Mr. M'Lean, Mr. Peters, Mr.
Miles,