

An Estimate of the expenses of the Civil Government for the ensuing year, framed according to the instructions of His Majesty's Government, will, in like manner, be laid before you.

*Gentlemen of the Legislative Council,
Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,*

The apprehension evinced by the Legislature during the last Session, by the passing of the Act to establish Boards of Health within the Province, and to enforce an effectual system of Quarantine have been but too fatally realized; and the frightful disease, the introduction of which it was the principal object of that Act to prevent, has visited the Colony with a degree of violence of which there are few examples on record, in other parts of the world.

Happily that disease is now considered to have ceased to prevail epidemically in the Province; but in the event of its re-appearance, it may be presumed that the experience acquired during its late visitation, will (if those establishments are to be maintained,) enable the several Boards of Health to improve upon the regulations already adopted by them.

I should be guilty of injustice towards the individuals composing and connected with those establishments, especially the Gentlemen of the Medical profession, were I to pass over in silence the meritorious services performed by them in the discharge of an arduous, important, and (in many instances) an invidious duty, the nature of that duty being altogether new in this Country, the performance of it was attended with many difficulties in the commencement. These have been gradually overcome through the united effects of zeal and experience, and I trust that the services to which I now allude will be duly appreciated by the public for whose benefit they were undertaken.

The gratuitous assistance rendered to the poorer classes of the society by the Medical faculty, generally throughout the Province, is also entitled to warm commendation.

Before I take leave of this subject, and close the present Address, I must not omit to offer the tribute of praise due in a quarter which I approach with sentiments of the most profound respect:—you will, I am sure, have anticipated me when I add, that I here allude to the meritorious exertions of the Clergy in general, during that awful visitation, with which it has pleased Divine Providence to afflict this land.—In that season of terror and dismay, where even to approach the dwellings of those who were suffering under the influence of the prevailing disease, required with many persons an effort of the mind, the Ministers of Religion went courageously forth, and entering the abodes of disease and death, were there to be found, day after day, and night after night, bending over some devoted victim of the fatal malady; and, whilst inhaling the tainted breath that issued from his distempered frame, pouring words of comfort and consolation in his ear, and preparing his soul for its passage into another state of existence—such exalted instances of self devotion are far, very far, beyond the reach of any praise that I have the power to bestow; and I will, therefore, only, add, that by their conduct during the last prevalence of disease in the Province, the Clergy in general have acquired new claims upon the love, the gratitude, the veneration and the confidence of the people committed to their spiritual care.