

cil, in Answer to his Excellency's Speech.

*To his Excellency Edmund Fanning, LL. D. Lieutenant Governor and Commander in Chief in and over his Majesty's Island of Saint John, and the Territories thereunto adjacent, Chancellor of the same, &c. &c. &c.*

*The humble ADDRESS of his Majesty's Council, in General Assembly met.*

*Sir,*

WE, his Majesty's most dutiful and loyal Subjects, the Members of his Majesty's Council, desire Leave to return your Excellency our most cordial Thanks for your Speech at the Opening of this present Session of the General Assembly.

It is obviously important to the true Interest and Welfare of his Majesty's Government in this Island, that the several Branches of the Legislature should, according to the Exigencies of the Public Service, be convened in General Assembly, to deliberate on such Measures as may appear to be best calculated to promote the Prosperity and Happiness of his Majesty's faithful and loyal Subjects in it: Nor is it less evident, that the present Season of the Year is the most convenient One for the Attendance of the Members.

The making of such Laws as may be judged necessary—the amending of others—and the revising and continuing such as may have been found salutary and useful, and near expiring, will necessarily become a principal Object of our Attention.

The Failure of the Act of the General Assembly for emitting

Credit, in Point of affording that Relief, or providing that efficient Substitute for a circulating Currency, which were hoped for and expected from it, has produced a Misfortune which has been very generally felt, and which consequently demands every patriotic and constitutional Exertion, on our Part, to lay some Foundation or solid Basis, on which we may more safely rest our future Hopes of supporting and maintaining the public Faith and Credit of this Government. Our Attention, therefore, will be particularly pointed towards the State of the insular Revenue, and excited to explore some fruitful Source of Ways and Means, for satisfying the Demands of Public Creditors.

The Want of Specie, or some circulating Medium among the People of this Island, has, we are but too sensible, proved a great Obstacle to Trade in general, and given a no small Restraint to the active Hand of Industry: And to this Misfortune may be ascribed, in a principal Degree, all that Embarrassment and Distress to which Individuals are, at this Time, subjected, in Discharge of their private Debts.—To prevent, therefore, the Growth and Increase of this Evil, and to remove it altogether, if possible, will become also an important Object of our Deliberation.

We most feelingly participate with your Excellency in the Contemplation of those brighter Objects, to which you are pleased to draw our Attention. The vast Acquisition of new and industrious Settlers, since the last Sessions—the abundant Increase of Crops of all Kinds, far exceeding

withstanding the beforementioned Discouragements—the cheering and animating Prospects now enjoyed from the Engagements already entered into for the erecting of Saw Mills and Grist Mills, of a superior Construction—the ample Supplies of salt, and other Stores, lodged at the different Harbours for carrying on the several Kinds of Fisheries the ensuing Spring—the large Contracts made by others for exporting Square Timber, besides the extended Business of Ship-building—the various Orders for preparing Frames and Materials for the erecting and completing of Mansion Houses for the Reception and Residence of opulent and respectable Proprietors among us—all these form, in the Aggregate, a most encouraging and flattering Presage of the future Wealth, Growth, and Prosperity of this hitherto but too much neglected Colony.—And while we are thus employed in the Enumeration and Arrangement of these agreeable Prospects (which, when beheld in their true Light of Importance, must necessarily promise a reciprocal Advantage to this Infant Colony and its Parent State) we owe it both to Candour and Gratitude to acknowledge, that they are in no small Degree, ascribable to that Prudence and Wisdom which have uniformly discovered themselves in every public Measure you have adopted during the Period of your Administration of the King's Government in this Island.

Candour and Unanimity, without which the public Welfare can never be successfully attempted, will, we trust, be plainly discoverable in all our Proceedings: