

ROYAL STATE, AND MISCELLANY OF THE ISLAND OF SAINT JOHN.

PRINTED BY WILLIAM A. RIND, PRINTER TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

OF his Majesty's
FANNING
Assembly
on the 7th

Mr. Pr
Mr. S
of his Ma
the House

IT has been the great and
wellfare of the government in
this Island, that the different branches of
the Legislature should in the course of every
year or two, as occasion may require, be
convened in General Assembly, to delibe-
rate on such public measures as may appear
to be best calculated to promote the Pros-
perity and Happiness of his Majesty's faith-
ful and loyal Subjects in it, I have chose
the present season for that purpose, it hav-
ing heretofore been found the least incon-
venient for the Members to attend the trans-
acting of the public business.

The enacting of such new Laws as may
be thought necessary, the amending of
others, and the reviving and continuing of
such as have been found salutary and use-
ful, and are near expiring, will necessarily
engage your principal attention.

The late Act of the General Assembly
for emitting Debentures or Bills of public
Credit, not having afforded that relief, or
proved that efficient substitute, for the want
of a circulating Currency as was wished for
and expected by the public, and which the
state of the Island required; and the term
of their circulation approaching to an end,
when the holders of them and government
warrants on the treasurer, must be paid in
cash, it becomes the duty of the present
sessions to turn their attention towards the
state of the public revenue, and to devise
and adopt the proper ways and means for
satisfying the demands of public creditors,
and supporting the public faith and credit
of this government.

The want of specie, or some circulating
money, in this Island, to facilitate the inter-
course of traffic or dealings among the in-
habitants, is not only a vast obstacle to trade,
and a great discouragement to industry, but
is also in a great degree the occasion of that
embarrassment, and heavy distress, in which
many individuals are at this time unhappily
involved, although probably possessed of
property sufficient to satisfy the demands of
their creditors, and to extricate themselves
and families from impending ruin, did not
the want of a currency in this Island render
it impossible for them to convert their effects
into money.

In cases of somewhat similar public exi-
gency and emergency the Legislatures of
some of his Majesty's West India Islands
have introduced foreign coin among them,
such as Spanish milled dollars, half, quar-
ter, eighth, and sixteenth of dollars, and
had them stamped at the public expence
with the letters G. R. on the face or dexter
side, and a crown on the reverse or sinister,
which coin, when so stamped, has been, by
a law to which the Royal Assent has been
obtained, declared and made a legal tender
in such Islands in all payments whatsoever,
and a heavy penalty inflicted on any person
carrying or exporting any of the said specie
or foreign coin, so stamped, out of the said
Islands.

And in order that the introduction and
circulation of such a cash currency should
not be opposed or obstructed, or any inju-
ry enue to the merchant or trader, the sum
to be so stamped or introduced into circula-
tion might be limited to the annual esti-
mate or sum voted by Parliament for the
civil establishment of this government for
one year. So that the officers of this go-
vernment would, in each revolving year,
find it both for their benefit and conveni-
ence to give their Bills for such money to
the merchants to the amount of their re-
spective salaries, which would effect an im-
mediate circulation, and secure a successive
annual exchange of the whole money of the
Island (besides what might be wanted for
bills for the half pay officers) to the mutual
advantage and convenience of the officer
who might want to receive his pay here,
and to the merchant who might be desirous
of making his remittances in bills to Eng-
land.

Among the many public advantages which
would attend such a measure, would be the
removing of that weighty objection, of the
want of a currency, which every stranger
makes to becoming a settler in this valuable
Island. It would fully answer all the ex-
igencies of insular dealings among the in-
habitants—it would enable the merchant to
collect his debts without distressing his
customers,—it would enable the tenant to
pay his rents;—and the farmer, the mer-
chant, and the labourer would thereby be
excited to redoubled diligence from a cer-
tainty of receiving in cash the reward of
their labour, and the fruit of their industry,
to the infinite encouragement and universal
benefit of all.

I have dwelt the more largely, Gentle-
men, upon this subject, from a confident
belief in my own mind that not any thing
whatever can immediately so essentially
promote the interest, or permanently ad-

vance the future prosperity of this Island,
as the procuring and establishing a circu-
lating currency, and without which every
other expedient, I am persuaded, will prove
but a mere temporary relief, in a great de-
gree defective, or altogether ineffectual.

Gentlemen of the Council, and
Gentlemen of the Assembly,

Having mentioned some few of those dif-
ficulties, under which the Island labours at
present, and which I conceive to be well
deserving of your attention and the aid of
the Legislature, it is with the highest satis-
faction that I can direct your views to
brighter objects, and am able to felicitate
you on the vast acquisition of new settlers
since the last sessions; the abundant in-
crease of the last harvest of winter grain,
and the plentiful crops of every kind, far
exceeding any former year; to which may
be added the cheering and animating pros-
pects which this Island has from engage-
ments already entered into for erecting some
saw and grist mills, of very superior con-
struction and public utility;—the large
supplies of salt, and other stores, lodged at
different harbours, for carrying on the her-
ring and other fisheries, the ensuing spring,
to far greater extent than ever known here
before,—the large contracts made by others
for exporting square timber,—besides the
extended business of ship building as it is
now carrying on,—and the orders for pre-
paring frames and materials for erecting
and completing of several mansion houses
for the reception of some opulent and re-
spectable proprietors among us, are ALL so
many encouraging presages of the future
wealth and prosperity of this heretofore too
much neglected Island. It therefore seems
only necessary for the present inhabitants,
and its Legislature especially, to be united,
faithful, and true to their own interest, and
the country's good, in order to bring for-
ward this valuable Island into that degree
of estimation and notice to which, from its
numerous and superior natural advantages,
it has so just and fair a claim. To accom-
plish which desirable ends, permit me, gen-
tlemen, to recommend to you the high im-
portance of candour and unanimity in all
your consultations for the public welfare,
and to assure you of my readiness cordially
to concur with you in every salutary mea-
sure for the benefit of his Majesty's service,
the prosperity of the Island, and the gene-
ral interest, harmony, and happiness of all
its inhabitants.

EDMUND FANNING.

Council Chamber, Charlotte }
Town, 7th Nov. 1792. }