

The Committee of the Legislative Council did not wait on His Excellency till after 12 o'clock, and until that Address was before him he could not officially communicate with the Council on the subject of his Reply to it.

Immediately on its reception he sent for Mr. Smith, intending to put the draft Reply into his hands, and request him to communicate it to his colleagues.

Mr. Smith, however, appears not to have received His Excellency's note until half-past two o'clock, and His Excellency's intentions in this respect were consequently foiled.

So strong was His Excellency's wish that the contents of his Reply should be known to the Council before its delivery, that when, during their last interview, His Excellency left the room as stated by Mr. Smith, it was not, as that gentleman supposes, to consult a member of the Opposition respecting the omission or retention of a paragraph in his Reply,—a point on which His Excellency received no advice from

any other person than Mr. Smith,—but for the purpose of ascertaining whether it might not even then be possible to postpone the reception of the Address for a few hours. He found however, that it would have been impossible to do so without gross discourtesy to the Legislative Council.

(Signed) ARTHUR GORDON.

Fredericton, 12th April, 1866."