

merely "nominal," or was it substantial? He should oppose its reception.

HON. MR. WILMOT would ask the hon. member for Charlotte, who had read the petition (Mr. Chandler), if Mr. Codlip was in Fredericton, that he so soon knew of the appointment which had been made.

MR. JOHNSON replied that he was not, but was represented by his attorney, Mr. Fraser.

HON. MR. FISHER said although he was opposed to receiving any petition, yet this was informal, inasmuch as it was addressed not to the House of Assembly, against whose action the protest was entered, but to His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislature. He did not see how, under these circumstances, the House could take cognizance of the matter.

MR. STEVENS explained that the petition was not against the return of Mr. Gray as a member of the House, but against his appointment as Speaker, a matter with which the petitioner had nothing to do, and for which there is no law at all applicable.

MR. JOHNSON said if the petition was refused it would not appear on the journals, and its folly might not be known, whilst the reference to it which must necessarily be made might lead some to imagine that there was something in it the members of the House did not wish to come to light. Having laid it on the table, they could let it lay there, or throw it under, as they saw proper, but the right of petition was sacred and should not be refused.

The petition was then received and laid on the table.

On motion of MR. KERR it was resolved to go into consideration of the Address in Reply to the Speech on Saturday morning, immediately after the reading of the Journals.

On motion of MR. KERR it was ordered that 200 copies each of the Address and Reply be printed for the use of the House.

HON. MR. TILLEY informed the House that as there was no Committee to report on the Debates, he was prepared to state that Messrs. John March and T. P. Dixon were present, and prepared to report the proceedings of the House for the sum of \$150 each for a session of 20 days, and *pro rata* afterwards; and that Mr. G. W. Day was also prepared to print the Debates on the same terms as last Session, and he would therefore move that those tenders be accepted.

The Resolution was adopted.

On motion it was ordered that 7000 copies of the debates be printed for general distribution.

On motion it was ordered that 2000 copies of the Journals be printed for general circulation.

The House then adjourned till Saturday evening at 10 o'clock.

J. M.

SATURDAY, JUNE 23d, 1866.

After the Journals were read the members of the House who were absent on Thursday, were sworn in by His Honor Judge Allan, with the exception of Mr. Smith, who was still absent.

#### CONCERNING LOCAL BILLS.

MR. KERR moved the following resolution:—"That all local bills which by the Journals of last Session appear to have been introduced into this House be allowed to be received this Session without requiring that such bills should be published in the local papers or read before the Grand Jury."

MR. JOHNSON said this appeared to be a general invitation for local bills to be presented. It would be the best way to suspend the rule in each individual case; for there should be no local legislation at all this Session except in extreme cases.

MR. KERR said that there were several important local bills to come before the House, particularly from St. John, and to let them stand over until next year would cause great inconvenience.

MR. CHANDLER thought they should postpone all the business they could until a future session, and only legislate upon such bills as were urgently required.

MR. CAIE remarked that he had brought in a bill during the last session of the Legislature praying for the division of a Parish in the County of Kent. This bill had been advertised for four weeks, but had not been presented. He wished to know whether it would have to be again advertised.

His Honor the SPEAKER said the rule did not specify that a bill should be advertised during the four weeks immediately preceding the meeting of the House. It would be for the House to say whether the rule had been complied with or not.

The resolution was then adopted.

#### RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE DEBATES.

MR. RYAN moved—"That for the purpose of giving information of the proceedings of the House the number of copies of the Debates ordered to be published be increased from 7,000 to 10,000." He believed this was the most important Session ever held in New Brunswick, as measures were to come before them involving a change in their Constitution. The question upon which they were to legislate was one in which the people take a great interest, and which had moved the whole country from its centre to its

circumference. As the expense of the increased number of debates was so small, being only \$4.50 per thousand, and the importance of the measures to be introduced was so great, it was desirable to have this increased number.

The question was then taken, and the resolution adopted.

The order of the day was then moved, viz:—

#### PROPOSED ADDRESS IN ANSWER TO HIS EXCELLENCY'S SPEECH.

MR. BOTSFORD said he did not oppose going on with the order of the day, but he thought it a matter of courtesy due to the leader of the late Government, who was unavoidably absent, that the consideration of the answer to His Excellency's Speech should be postponed until Monday. He (Mr. Smith) would be here to-night. Questions may arise during the discussion which it would be necessary for him to answer, therefore, they should as a matter of courtesy adjourn the debate until Monday, particularly as it has been the usual course to take up this subject on that day.

HON. MR. FISHER said he did not want to take advantage of any one, he did not see that any discussion would arise which would affect the leader of the late Government. They should press the business forward as fast as possible. This was the third day of the Session, and in short sessions, the address was generally taken up on the second or third day. He wished to give notice of a resolution on the subject of Union, and also to give notice (in the absence of the Provincial Secretary) of supply. The public business of the country requires His Excellency to go up the River on military matters next week; they therefore could not delay the consideration of this address. He would put it to the House, whether the Government would be justified in doing so. He could not consent to this delay, and he hoped they would not be considered uncourteous in pressing on the business of the country.

MR. KERR said that he observed in the journals of 1857 that the House met on Wednesday the 24th of June, attended to the routine of business, elected a Speaker, and on the 25th of June at 2 o'clock they presented the address in answer to the Speech.

The motion was then carried, after which His Honor the SPEAKER read part of the proposed address, when—

MR. BOTSFORD remarked that there had been a slight alteration in the phraseology. He did not know by what parliamentary rule an address was altered after it had been published and laid upon the table. If any alterations were necessary, the members of the House should have