

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,

TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 1833.

*Reported for the British American.*

Mr. Owen moved the second reading of the advalorum Bill. Mr. Cooper moved in amendment "that the Bill be read this day six months," and in support of the amendment Mr. Cooper read the following speech:—

"Mr. Speaker, I was mistaken when the advalorum duty was proposed in this House, which brought me under the displeasure of my honourable colleague, (Mr. Owen) and subjected me to the lash of his ridicule, about pocket speeches, and popularity; and although I plead guilty to the first of the charges, yet I was not wholly to blame, for I understood that he (Mr. Owen) intended to oppose the Bill and vote against it, and I was glad to think I had so good a leader in the public interest. But my honourable colleague is well aware of my awkwardness, and that through some fault or falling like himself, I express myself in a bungling way, without a memorandum, and he knows that I have not cunning enough to perceive when he is in jest or in earnest, and that I cannot (without his assistance get into the art of saying one thing, and doing or meaning another.) If my honourable colleague intended that I should vote for the measure, to spare him the obloquy of voting for an unpopular tax, he ought to have taken more pains to instruct me before hand, and as to what I should say and how I should vote, and not abuse me about my pocket speeches before a houseful of people. But with regard to the tax itself, I consider it one of the most equitable that can be imposed, and in many instances preferable to a land tax, were it not that a land tax is absolutely necessary to correct the great land monopoly, and compel absentees not only to settle their wilderness lands, but to contribute a portion of their income to the support of the Government and improvements of the Country, from which they derive it. It is not therefore on account of my dislike to an advalorum duty that I oppose the measure, but on account of other reasons. The first of which is, I think a land tax would be of more benefit to the country in its present state, and if there had not been so inconsiderate and wasteful an appropriation, this unpopular measure would not be required. To explain my meaning better, I will take a view of the proceedings of this House since its commencement. This House considered it was a great inconvenience for those who went to law to have to travel to Charlotte-Town to Court, to remedy which, the country was taxed 1300l to build County Court Houses, which will require 600l a year to uphold and encourage litigation, over and above the duties and expense of jurors being troubled, and I may be bold to say the

whole of these burdens of taxation, will not save the country 100l a year, consequently there is 13 or 1400l in a lump, and 500l yearly that is worse than thrown away. The next public inconvenience which this House intended to remove, was the distance which ship masters had to travel to a Custom House, to remove this grievance, five sub-collectors were appointed (here Messrs. Pope and Owen called the honorable member to order, saying, he had no right to go so far from the subject of debate.—Mr. Brenan thought Mr. C. was perfectly in order, and saw no reason why he should not be allowed to proceed.) (Mr. C. continued) at the expense of 200l a year. To have appointed one in each County would not have given a fair chance to those who expected offices. And here we are told by an honourable member from Prince County (Mr. Pope) that (Mr. P.) is not half remunerated for his trouble. *That he has to keep an office to obey instructions, and one would suppose from what he stated, that he considers he did the Governor an honour in accepting the situation of Sub-Collector, only on stipulated conditions.* (Here Mr. Pope appealed to the Chair, and to the House, if Mr. Cooper was not out of order, in referring to any past deeds' of the House, or anything that tended to bring it into ridicule. Mr. Brenan contended that Mr. Cooper was perfectly at liberty to revert to any Act of the House, or its members, provided he did not make use of improper language, he stood up to speak in support of the amendment, and he was perfectly at liberty to support that by drawing his reasons from the proceedings of the House as far as it regarded the state of the country. Mr. Speaker said, it was not the practice of Parliament to name any member in debate. Mr. Cooper said he would not do so again, that he would call Mr. Pope the member for Prince County. (Then Mr. Cooper proceeded.) And if he (Mr. P.) is not better paid he will resign the office. I believe, Mr. Speaker, the honourable gentleman's talents both in his own estimation and mine, deserve a far higher reward, but I know that the office is not of that benefit to the country, which he may suppose; and that those who carry the hod cannot expect to be paid as architects, however clever the hod carrier may be. We have been accustomed in this House to cry up Patriotism, and appear to have gloried in the Reform of the British Parliament; let us inquire how we have followed their example. The objects of Reform in England is retrenchment, to reduce the salaries of Officers, and do away with a great many altogether, to ease the people of taxation, and grant them equal rights. This House have made 5 Collectors of Customs, 2 or 3 Road Commissioners, 12 Collectors of Impost, besides the number of Officers

which will be required for the County Courts. We have relieved the principal Collector of Impost and the Treasurer of a great part of their duties, and granted them high salaries. The Collector of Impost has free liberty to carry on trade, and 200l a year of the public money to enable him to do so. The Treasurer spared no pains to obtain the office when the income did not exceed 300l, we have now granted him 500l a year, and the patronage of appointing Collectors of Land Tax. He surely wont forget his friends in the appointments. But I readily admit, the Gentlemen I have alluded to, are highly deserving, for the accommodation they have at all times afforded to the public: but as I came here the Representative of the people, I feel it my duty to have all the Offices of Government performed at the least possible expence to the people, and I have every reason to believe that the offices of Collector of Impost and Treasurer could be done equally well for two-thirds the sum, thus saving the country 250l per annum. But I must not neglect to take credit to ourselves when it is our due. But they had no influence with us and we have no chance of Offices from them. Ah! the inhabitants to the westward might well chuckle, if they knew the advantages they possess in having Representatives of penetration and discrimination, who can examine and reward Public Officers in just proportion according to their different degrees of power, influence and patronage, and as a criterion, to shew how much the public convenience is consulted when Offices are made, the Custom House of Three Rivers is held on Pannure Island!!! But are the glorious reforms in our Island!!! But I have been told out of doors, that if the advalorum duty is not passed, that the appropriation Bill will be thrown out by the Council, and we should lose our pay. This would be a great misfortune to me, for whether I deserve it or not, I stand in need of it; but rather than vote for such a measure on those terms, I would sooner, if I had no other means, beg my way home.

On the question being put there appeared for Mr. Cooper's amendment, Messrs. Cooper, Brenan, Dalrymple, Brecken, Binns. Against it—Messrs. Owen, Pope, Green, H. McDonald, J. S. McDonald, Nelson, Compton, R. McNeil, Willock, and Mr. Speaker.

## COMMUNICATIONS.

*For the British American.*

MR. WHITE,—I don't know of any word or term that is so frequently used in support of so many different ideas, or