is fully expected that the Lady Franklin, sailing vessel, formerly purchased by Government for Capt. Penny's expedition, and now at Chatham, will accompany the Phœnix as a store ship, and be also well supplied with coals for the use of the Phœnix and the vessels of Capt Sir Edward Belcher's expedition. The intention of sending out Commander Inglefield's expedition is in the first instance to proceed to Beechy Island with a fresh supply of provisions and other stores, which will be turned over to the North Star, Commander Pullen, expected to be found stationed there as a rendezvous for the vessels of Sir. Edward Belcher's expedition. The Phœnix having accomplished that part of the object in sending her during the present year to the Arctic regions, will then be under a kind of discretionary power, at the command of Commander Inglefield, to proceed to Smith's and Jones's Sound, and follow up the discoveries he made in the former in 1852, leaving the Lady Franklin, sailing tender to the Phœnix, at the Cary Islands, or other eligible winter harbour at that part of Baffin's Bay, at the mouth of Smith's Sound, as a rendezvous for the officers and the crew of the Phœnix to fall back upon in the event of any unforeseen accident to the steam sloop. Lady Franklin, the devoted wife of Sir John Franklin, still entertains the fond hope that her long lost husband will again be restored to her, and her whole energies at the present time are directed to the sending out the Isabel screw steam vessel of 16 nominal horse power, but, being on the high pressure principle, capable of working to a much higher power. Mr. Kennedy, who commanded the Prince Albert in her recent voyage to the Arctic regions has just visited the Isabel at Woolwich, and made a minute inspection of her, as, if it is finally decided that she shall proceed to Behring's Straits, he will have the command, and be accompanied by Monsieur Bellot, the Frenchman who was with him during the last voyage, and who has again volunteered his services most generously and gratuitously in any further service Mr. Kennedy may enter upon, in compliance with the wishes of Lady Franklin, in search of Sir John Franklin. Mr. Bardin, who accompauied Commander Inglefield last year in the Isabel, as engineer of that vessel, has also offered his services to proceed in her with Mr. Kennedy.

THE GOVERNMENT DECISION ON CONVOCATION.—It is now understood that the Government has assured both the Archbishop of Canterbury and the clergymen anxious for the revival of Convocation, of its determination to interfere if Convocation attempts to enter into business beyond that which has been already transacted in framing an address to the crown—or if any factious attempt be made to resist the prorogation by the Archbishop. This announcement may tend to allay the eagerness of the Bishop of Oxford to enter into a contest with the Archbishop. The address will be presented on the 16th, and the prorogation will immediately follow. Anxious that the Government should take an equally wise course in the matter of the Colonial Churches bill, and of the Court of Appeal (which certain bishops are about to recommend), we understand that the joint committee appointed by the two Houses of Convocation will report—that certain bishops having undertaken to introduce a Clergy Discipline bill their labours have ceased. Convocation has been called together by the crown in order, as the writ runs, to consider certain matters to be placed before it by the crown. It can be called together in no other way, and for no other purpose. The crown having nothing for it to do, very properly directs the Archbishop to dismiss the reverend gentlemen to their own homes. —The *Times* of Thursday says:—We are requested to announce that her Majesty has graciously intimated to the Archbishop of Canterbury her intention to receive the address of the prelates and clergy of the Convocation of the province of Canterbury on Wednesday, the 16th instant, at one o'clock, at Buckingham Palace.

LOUIS NAPOLEON'S WEDDING CAKE.—The bridecake for the imperial marriage was made in London. The cake weighs 320 lbs., exclusive of the decorations. The design consists of a group of eight splendid cornucopiæ pouring out beautiful flowers, emblematic of Peace and Plenty, and surmounted by a vase of alabaster, exquisitely carved, with the eagles of France for supporters. The bouquet for the centre of the vase contains the fleur de-lis entwined with the Spanish jasmine and Irish shamrock, overshadowed by the eagle's feather. The whole of the flowers are of English manufacture. The entire cake, including the ornaments, was designed and completed within three days. The following are the ingredients of the cake:—Dorset butter, 24 lbs; loaf sugar, 84 lbs; currants, 30 lbs; raisins, 30 lbs; flour, 28lbs; Jordan almonds, 42 lbs; eggs, 332: lemons, 40; orange, lemon, and citron rings, 24 lbs; three bottles Eau-de-vie; two bottles creme de Noyeau.

A BISHOP AT THE DIGGINGS.—On Tuesday, at the monthly meeting of the Christian Knowledge Society, a letter was read from the Bishop of Adelaide, in the course of which his lordship remarked—"I perceive that the notion prevails in England that the gold diggings have poured wealth beyond bound into our laps. This is true of the labouring class, but the other classes were never so mush pinched. The cost of subsistence has doubled. All labor and service wages are exorbitant. The clergy and gentry, therefore, not only find their incomes diminished, because the supply of labor is insufficient and wages high; but, besides much discomfort, find it difficult to live and educate their children as before. Bread is 4d. per pound, and unless the good feeling of the working classes induces them to get in the harvest, instead of hunting after gold, even this rate will be exceeded next year."

LATE FROM CALIFORNIA.—Intelligence from San Francisco was received at New-Orleans on the 10th inst. in eighteen days, being the quickest time on record between the two places. The dates are to the 2d of February, and came by way of Acapulco to Vera Cruz, whence they were received by the steamer *Albatross*.

THE STEAMER ERICSON has arrived at Alexandria, from New York; her trip tends to confirm the highest anticipations in regard to her. Only one fireman was on duty at a time during the whole trip. The consumption was under five tons in 24 hours.

NEW BRUNSWICK

The New Brunswick Legislature commenced its Session on the 24th Feby. under favourable auspices. The *Courier* says:—"Amid the general prosperity with which Providence has blessed us, and the brilliant prospects which the commencement of our Railways open to us for the future, the Speech could not be otherwise than a congratulatory one, and we are glad to find that Government action is promised in at least two diretions in which it is most required—namely, an improvement in our electoral system, and a reform in the road administration."

COLONIAL LEGISLATURE.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

WEDNESDAY, March 2.—(*Condensed Debate.*)

Proposed EXCLUSION of certain GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS from the LEGISLATURE.

MR. MACAULAY—just as the hon. the Speaker was about to put the question on the passage of "*the Extension of the Elective Franchise Bill*"—rose and moved, that the following Resolution be added to the Bill, to form part thereof, by way of a *Rider*.

"Be it further enacted, that, immediately after this Act shall go into operation, no legislator shall fill the office of Colonial Secretary, Colonial Treasurer, or Queen's Printer, or Registrar of Deeds, or Collector of Impost and Excise, or Collector of any part of the Public Revenue of the Colony of Prince Edward Island."

The hon. member, in doing so, said that it was well known he entertained peculiar views on this subject—that he had publicly stated those views to his constituents—and had, on different occasions, publicly endeavoured to prove the propriety and prudence of their being acted upon, by the Legislature, to the end that purity of popular representation might be maintained:—it must, therefore, have been natural to expect that he would, as a member of the Assembly, take some suitable opportunity of introducing a proposition in accordance with his views; and conceiving the present to be such a one, he acted accordingly.

Hon. Mr. COLES rose and said, that he begged leave to make a few remarks touching the proposition of the hon. member (Mr. Macaulay) before the question should be put thereon. It was well known that he and the majority of that House occupied the position in which they were placed therein, solely in consequence of their attachment to the principles of Responsible Government, as they were then established, and as, before their establishment, they had been frequently enunciated by them. The people had placed them in a majority in that House for the express purpose of carrying out those principles as they were established in the Provinces of Canada and Nova Scotia, where the system of Government by Heads of Departments had been established. And that the establishment of a similar system of Government here, had been clearly contemplated by the people, at the General Election which constituted that House, had afterwards received the fullest corroboration, in the result of the partial elections which afterwards followed the concession of the system to this Colony, and the appointment of five members of the majority to five several government offices—he alluded to those of his honourable colleagues in the Government, the Colonial Secretary, Colonial Treasurer, the Queen's Printer, and the Controller of Customs and Navigation Laws, at St. Peters, and that of the Collector of Excise, Charlottetown. The people, in spite of all the misrepresentations of the system which had been so industriously circulated amongst them, fully understood and appreciated the privileges conferred upon them in its establishment and working. They knew that a Government, before the introduction of the Responsible System, could exist in defiance of their opinions, however much that Government might be opposed to and obstruct all measures of general reform and progress; and they knew that the change—the introduction of the Responsible System—had conferred upon them the inestimable privilege without which they were not freemen in reality—the privilege of choosing, not only their representatives in the Assembly, but also the men, to whose hands the management of public affairs, in their several departments, was to be committed. And they also knew that a Government chiefly composed of individuals taken from the majority in the Assembly, and Government Officers principally appointed from the same body, must be directly responsible to themselves, and could not long retain their positions of ascendancy and place, independently of their approbation. Yes, the people fully understood and appreciated the advantages which the Responsible System had conferred upon them; and, if the hon. member for Georgetown and the few other public men who, for private reasons, best known to themselves, yet so slightly veiled that they could be penetrated by the weakest vision, should have to wait—as they themselves expected they would—for the realization of their aspirations after power and place, till the people should have become weary of the present system, he was afraid that, how liberally soever they might sow the seeds of reactionary change, they would never reap anything but disappointment. In this Colony, the establishment of the system had been brought about by means which were highly creditable to the people—by nothing but steady, peaceable, and constitutional agitation—and the manner in which it was freely conceded to them, by the Home Government, so soon as they were satisfied that the change was earnestly desired by the majority of the people, was highly complimentary and gratifying to them. In Canada, the change had not been effected until after the people had broken out into open rebellion, into which they had been goaded, or rather been allowed to be betrayed, by being refused the privilege which they had long earnestly, constitutionally, and justly demanded—the privilege of governing themselves. It was true that the representatives of the people here were—in asserting their just claim to the privileges of self—government, and in consequence of the unconstitutional resistance opposed to its introduction in a certain quarter—driven to an extreme course, the stopping of the Supplies; but that was a constitutional proceeding, in perfect accordance with the self—regulating, self—balancing principles of the Constitution of Great Britain; and it happily brought about, in peace, the change which it was intended to effect.

MR. MACAULAY.—He had viewed the question in all its bearings, and considered it with the greatest impartiality, and the conviction, produced in his mind by his study of it, was, that, both out of the Legislature and in it, the permiting of so many Government officials, as then sat in it, especially in the popular branch to have seats therein, was directly calculated to give the Government undue influence in legislation; and was, therefore, a practice which ought to be abolished by law. He was not opposed to true Responsible Government. On the contrary, his object then was the making of the Government of this Colony much more responsible to the people, than it possibly could be, whilst that practice which it was the aim of his proposition to abolish, should continue. It would be wrong to say or suppose that he was influenced by attachment to the old system, or the old Government—that Government he knew not even by name. The officials were undoubtedly gentlemen fully capable of discharging the duties of their several offices; but they were too much fagged, by the performance of them, to be able, at the same time, to discharge the duties of legislators. As members of the Legislature, they would be much more valuable were they not officials. The advantages of the Responsible System of Government by Heads of Departments were still disputed wherever that system had been tried. And if hon. members were willing to look to the United States of America with impartial eyes, they might there behold, in the working of a contrary system, a mode, by the adoption of which, what was professedly sought after here—true and direct responsibility to the people—might be effectually obtained. The people of the United States were older, and wiser too, than we; and it would, he thought, well become us humbly to learn and profit by their experience. He had felt considerable delicacy concerning the submitting of his proposition; but hon. members had seen, twelve months ago, what were his opinions as regarded the question which it was calculated to determine; and they must, naturally, have expected that, sooner or later, he would bring forward a proposition or measure in accordance with those opinions.

MR. DAVIES.—He looked upon the hon. member's proposition as nothing but a feeble and vain attempt at obstruction. The movement he, therefore, felt persuaded, would occasion no anxiety amongst the friends of progress. It was, by no means, calculated, to impose upon the people. They knew very well, that, under the present system, they enjoyed the right to choose the public servants, and to say who should, and who should not, fill offices of trust and emolument in the Colony; and they could clearly perceive that the adoption of such a rule as that which the hon. member for Georgetown, Mr. Macaulay, would prescribe for their observance, would take the control which they at present possessed over the chief government officials, entirely out of their hands, and, in fact, deprive them completely of one half of their political power.

HON. MR. POPE.—The watch-word of the obstructive party whose peculiar sentiments respecting office-holders, we are required to believe are set forth in the proposition submitted to the House by the hon. member for Georgetown, Mr. Macaulay, had its origin with a discontented and envious faction in New Brunswick. And what are they who have taken it up here, but a set of the greatest office-seekers in the Colony? and the mover of this amendment, it is very well known, would have very willingly accepted any number of the petty fee-producing offices about Georgetown, could he have so managed as to secure them. In New Brunswick the movement to exclude certain officials from the Assembly had its origin in personal hostility to an individual. This led to the introduction of a Bill in the Assembly of New Brunswick for the exclusion of certain officers from seats in that House; but the good sense of the public had repudiated it. Some of the speeches made on that occasion, in favour of the Bill, had been industriously hawked about this Colony in hundreds, by a few disappointed obstructives of progress, and interested adherents of the old system. And, at the same time, these individuals had taken occasion to assail the party now in power with the most rancarous and unmitigated abuse. They had represented the whole party as nothing but a set of corruptionists. They had represented them as thieves and robbers. So exasperated were they, by the success of the responsible measures; and so unmitigated was their hate of those who had happily labored for their full recognition and establi hment, that these were the very expressions by which they chose to declare it. They told the people that we would, in our official capacities, study nothing but the effecting of deception and peculation; and that, for mutual security in our fraudulent practices, we would support one another, and effectually unite, should the dishonesty of any one of us be suspected, to prevent any such investigation as would be likely to establish it or bring it fully to light. And the spreading of these calumnies has not been discontinued; but, on the contrary, their original wretched propagators still adhere to their vocation; and, convinced though they must be of their inability thereby to damage those against whom they are directed; they are yet so senseless in their hate, as to repeat and renew them again and again to their own discomfiture and shame. For what has the result of the three years' practice of the responsible system, which we were mainly instrumental in establishing, proved? Has it not been attended with the most convincing, the most undeniable proofs of its adaptation to all the ends and objects of good government and wise legislation? And has not the country under it, been benefited by the furtherance of its interests to an extent which, in so short a period, could scarcely have been looked for by the most sanguine of the friends of the responsible system; and which finds no parallel in the history of these Colonies? As a proof of the efficiency of the several government departments, and of the strict integrity and correctness with which all pecuniary transactions and accounts are managed and kept, it is quite sufficient to refer to the reports of the searching investigations made every three moths by the Public Auditors; gentlemen who, besides being eminently well qualified, by their practical knowledge of accounts, to detect every error and unravel any mystery which may exist, are quite beyond every suspicion of partiality to those in office; for, if party men at all, they must be considered as belonging rather to that of the old, than that of the new government. But, in spite of all such testimonies in favor of the Government and the Government officials; and, although no foundation whatever, whereon to prefer a single charge against them, existed; yet one wretched slave-driver—the despised hireling of those who basely employed him—had lately had the audacity to declare that the Government had, by some covert means, appropriated to their own private use, and divided amongst themselves, £20,000 of the last year's revenue. The entirely unsupported assertion of so worthless and degraded a wretch would scarcely pass muster amongst those who know him, on any subject whatever; but so monstrous and unfounded a calumny as that to which he (Hon. Mr. Pope) alluded could have no effect, but that of lowering the estimation, in which, for effective mendacious defamation its fabricator had been held by his masters. With the single exception, however, of that thoroughly despised calumniator, he believed there was not one individual in the community so boldly unjust as to come forward and prefer any charge against either the Government or the Government officials, affecting their integrity in their public capacities. The public affairs had never been so well and so prosperously conducted as they had been since the introduction of the responsible system; and, in all the departmental offices, so correct were the modes of transacting business, and of keeping accounts, that it might fairly be questioned whether they were, in any great degree, susceptible of improvement. With respect to his own office, although, as Paddy says, he said it who should not say it, he could safely declare that all was in a state of efficiency which had never been surpassed, even if it had been equalled before. But he was not seeking to arrogate merit to himself alone, for he believed as m ich might be said concerning the state and management of every other public office, as he had said with respect to those of his own. And yet the gentlemen who filled these offices had been represented as unfit to fill them, and as having aspired to them only because they were unable to procure a respectable livelihood by their private exertions. He, as one of those individuals, held one of the best of the public offices; but so far was he from considering the salary attached to it as more than he could realize by his private enterprise, that he had made up his mind to resign it, and he now publicly expressed his intention of shortly placing it again at the disposal of those who had conferred it upon him, and of removing to another country, where he hoped he would be able to find a fairer aad more inviting field for the exercise of his abilities and enterprise, than this place had afforded on account of the conduct and policy of those who undervalued every man's service but their own, and sought to reduce the public officers to the means of a bare subsistence—thus acting a most unwise part; for the Public would never secure the services of qualified men, unless they paid them a reasonable sum for their services.

It was pretended by some that patriotic men, men well qualified to serve the country, and willing to do so without pecuniary reward, could easily be found to discharge all the administrative duties of Government; but such pretence was downright humbug. It was a fact that, however patriotic and talented men might be—however zealous to serve their country, and capable to do so—they all looked for some much more substantial reward, for such service, than the mere approbation, either of the people, or of their own consciences; and they had a good right to do so. The appointment of men, either to constitute a Government, or to discharge departmental official duties, properly belonged to the people only; and they best knew who were able to serve them in those capacities. None were more worthy of being well rewarded than faithful and efficient public servants. To choose men fully qualified to discharge the important duties appertaining to the higher government offices; and to award them liberal salaries for the performance of them, would always be found to be the best and the most economical policy. Such was the amount of public business now to be attended to, that it was quite preposterous to suppose that it could now be carried on without the assistance of paid departmental officers connected with the Legislature and Executive. The salaries attached to these offices, in this Colony, were a very insignificant recompence for the discharge of the duties incumbent upon those who filled them, as well as inadequate to meet the expenses which were necessarily incurred by living in such a manner, with regard to individual and family respectability and comfort, as was no more than decent and becoming in gentlemen placed in situations so important and conspicuous; and the sooner the gentlemen so circumstanced came forward and said so, the sooner the miserable economy which regulated their salaries would give place to a more liberal and a wiser policy. The hon. gentleman then declared his surprise that such a proposition as that which had just been submitted to the House, should have proceeded from so well informed a gentleman as the hon. member for Georgetown, Mr. Macaulay—a measure which he must have been aware would meet with little or no support either in that House or among the people generally. And, in conclusion, concerning the alleged impossibility of the Assembly's sustaining an impeachment, under the present system, against an Official, being also a member of the House, in the pecuniary management of whose department it might be suspected any fraud had been practised, the hon. gentleman said that it was very well known to those who urged the impossibility of obtaining a full investigation of the accounts of such an individual and of the mode in which they were kept, that it was scarcely possible any error or fraud, if such existed, could escape detection by the public Auditors, as he had before stated; but, besides the searching quarterly examinations of these gentlemen into the system and accounts of every government official, their accounts were regularly submitted to the House every session; and, besides being duly investigated and reported on, by a Specal Committee, every member of the House had ample opportunities afforded him of exercising the strictest scrutiny concerning them himself. All these facts considered, it would be admitted, by evey candid and independent mind, that the most minute error could scarcely, by any possibilty, escape discovery. How then, in case of fraud, dishonesty could escape detection through collusion on any the part of the members of the Government and other officials in the House, he, (the Hon. Mr. Pope) was wholly at a loss to understand; and equally at a loss was he to express his contempt for the suspicions, by means of which some men would seek to impugn the character of others, merely because they occupied positions of considerable pecuniary trust. Who ever impugned the integrity of a Prime Minister of England, or of a Chancellor of the Exchequer, merely because they were heads of Departments and were in receipt of £5,000 a year of the public money, or dreamt of a combination to defraud the public Revenue, because they could shield and support each other. Away with such arrant nonsense, it would not take with sensible men, and he trusted the House would treat the absurd proposal of the member for Georgetown with that contempt which its transparent worthlessness desereve.

HON. MR. PALMER.—He would not be surprised if it should soon be accounted treason, by the Members of the Government, for any one on his side of the House to make the slightest objection to, or to propose the smallest innovation of, a system, the working of which it was their delight to laud so much; and not without good reason; for, certainly, it could not be denied that it had worked well for themselves at all events. It might suit their views, as no doubt it did, to maintain that the proposition of the hon. member for Georgetown (Mr. Macaulay) was unreasonable; nay, more, that it was unconstitutional, that it was opposed to public liberty, and that its object was to fetter the free exercise of the elective franchise. It might suit the officials in the House to maintain that they were returned on principle, and not, by any means, in consequence of the unduly excited enthusiasm, and cunningly aroused expectations of a portion of the electors. It might suit them to assert, as an undeniable fact, that they had been chosen, by the people, after mature deliberation, and through a full conviction that they were, of all men in the community, the most worthy and deserving of power and place; and further to declare that, therefore, they and the foundations of their authority should remain unshaken, and endure to all eternity. It might suit them to represent the proposition as out of place; and they might attempt to put it down, either by pointless attempts at ridicule; or by coarse aspersions of character, and unfounded imputations concerning personal motives—a means which suited the ability and inclinations of some still better than the former. But he would take leave to tell the honorable Leader of the Government, and the honorable the Treasurer, that the proposition of the hon. member for Georgetown was so far from being unreasonable, unconstitutional, and adverse to the free exercise of the elective franchise; that it was strictly in accordance with the constitutional practice of the British House of Commons; and, so far was it from being adverse to public liberty, that the only object of the proposition was to guard against the people's being cheated out of their liberties, by means of Government influence, exerted for the purpose of corrupting the people's representatives in the Assembly: and how easily it could be successfully exerted for such a purpose, was quite manifest to all. As to the proposition's being out of place, that, he thought, was rather a strange assertion to proceed from any member of a professedly reforming Government. True reformers would be disposed to admit that attempts at reformation could not easily be either out of place or ill-timed. But this proposition for reform could not be shewn to be either. On the contrary, he maintained that it was both strictly in place and well-timed. It was in place, as being intended to be coupled with a measure for the extension of the elective franchise, to prevent a mistaken and dangerous exercise of that liberty; and it was well-timed, as being seasonably brought forward to prevent, at the next general, and all future elections, such returns as would endanger the purity and independence of the Assembly. The Government Officials in the House said—and he was not at all surprised that they did so—that their being again returned to the Assembly, after having been appointed to their several offices, was a proof of acquiescence in, and approval by, the people, of the principles on which the present system of Government is framed. The fallacy of such reasoning was, however, most easily demonstrated; for a test of the people's opinion concerning the mode in which it had been determined to carry out the new system, could not be afforded by the determination of two or three constituencies, who, so far from constituting a majority of the electors, formed but a very small portion of the whole. The hon. the Leader of the Government had, he thought, been peculiarly unfortunate in his attempt to shew the propriety and superiority of the system of Government now in practice here. It was, at the best, but a very questionable recommendation of any system or institution to say that it had been brought about by open rebellion against so mild and parental a Government as that of Great Britain was, almost universally, admitted to be. But, so far was the system from having given general satisfaction, in any of the Provinces into which it had been introduced; that in all of them the loudest complaints were preferred against it; and, in fact, it was still undetermined in any one of them, whether it would be firmly established on its present foundations, or whether, to give it permanence, it would not be necessary greatly to modify many of its principles and the basis of the whole. If the object sought was in reality responsibility, the course adopted was the very reverse of that which ought to have been pursued. Was it not evident to every unprejudiced mind that such responsibility was not attainable by constituting the Assembly a body representing the Crown and the Government? The Assembly ought to be a pure representation of the people, and its functions merely legislative. But what was it under the existing system, but an unconstitutional mixture of administrative and legislative powers? The proper functions of the people's representatives were pure legislation and a vigilant and jealous resistance to the undue assumption or exercise of power by the Crown or the Government. But these functions were not compatible with the presence, in the Assembly, of so many members of the Government and Government Officials, as were quite sufficient to enable the Government to secure and exercise undue influence, and to bring a majority into subjection to their will. Under the old system, defective as it may have been, the representatives of the people had it in their power, at all times, to impeach any Public Officer whom they might have had reason to suspect of any culpable neglect of duty or fraudulent appropriation of public moneys; and nothing could have come between him and the power of the Assembly to cause the most searching investigation concerning the charges preferred against him by means of such impeachment. But how stood the case now? If a Government Officer were charged in the Assembly with mal-practices, defalcation, or embezzlement in his official capacity, who would constitute the tribunal before which he would be put on his trial? Not independent men, men having no immediate connexion with him; but himself, and men whose interests were closely identified with his, and who were bound to him by the ties of official brotherhood. Such a state of things was not compatible with public liberty and a due regard to the public interests. What could be expected from it, but that officials, whatever individual corruption might exist amongst them, would support and defend each other, as they had the power to do, through good report and evil report? A collector of public revenue, so sheltered and protected, might, were he able to devise some ingenious, but deceptive and fraudulent mode of transacting the business of his office and keeping his accounts, go on, year after year, defrauding the revenue and enriching himself by his embezzlements. He spoke on general principles, and wished merely to shew what was possible under such a system of official union combined with an undue ascendancy in the Assembly. He did not, by any means, intend that his observations should occasion a belief that he supposed or suspected that fraud, either systematically or otherwise, was practised in any of the public offices. But what he desired to make manifest was, that if fraud were so practised, there could not, under the existing system, be found a majority, in the Assembly, so untrammelled and independent, as to put any official having a seat therein fairly upon his trial. Where officials had thus the control of a majority in the Assembly, responsibility to the people was virtually done away with. It was argued that, as, under the present system, the existence of a Government could not be securely calculated upon for a longer period than four years, the knowledge that, at the expiration of that period, the members of it would have, once more, to appeal to the people, and to abide by their judgment of their administrative and official career, would be sufficient to secure integrity of conduct on their part. But this was a false conclusion, for where a Government and their Officials possessed the power to screen official delinquencies, if they existed, many great and irremediable evils might be perpetrated within that period of time, short as it was. They might sneer at the American practice as much as they pleased, but experience had shewn that the keeping of the administrative and legislative functions separate, afforded the only guarantee that either the one or the other would be exercised for the public benefit.

MR. MOONEY, on rising to oppose the motion of the hon. member Mr. Macaulay, said—he did it on the ground that, in the year 1850, the Bird of Liberty soared on high, and on her flight, the obstructives laid hold of her; but, happily the people rescued her from their tyrant grasp, and left her in safe keeping with the representatives of the people; and now, when she was well fledged, an attempt was made, by the obstructive party, in the Assembly, for the first time, to rob her protectors of the feathers: and he had heard it with astonishment. During the Palmer administration, did ever the father of the obstructives dream of the like? No: but they enjoyed the sweets of power and office against the will of the people. How much unlike the present system of Responsible Government was that which long, too long, endured before it! The people had become thoroughly weary of it.