

The Examiner.

SATURDAY, MAY 4, 1850.

THE PROROGATION AND "THE SPEECH."

the Civil List Bill. From what had occurred between him and the representatives of the liberal party who had been in communication with him on the subject of a change of Government, it could not certainly be inferred that he would pass that Bill; and although he did pass it, the prorogation following as it were in the same moment, the House had no opportunity to pass a Revenue Bill by which to create a fund for the payment of the salaries and allowance on the Civil List. With respect to the amendments proposed to be made to the Address, he thought they were such as were fully called for and warranted by circumstances. Should the House agree to thank His Excellency for his Speech, they would show that they set very little value indeed upon what was due to themselves, as the Representatives of the People, from His Excellency, who had certainly, as it seemed to him, endeavoured to make them feel by his mode of delivering his Speech, that he thought them unworthy of any thing like suavity of manner from him.

Mr. MOONEY declared that although he did not withdraw from the Council Chamber until after His Excellency had concluded his Speech, he felt as much resentment in his breast at the insulting tone in which His Excellency addressed the House as Mr. Coles who had evidenced his resentment by his mode of acting. He (Mr. M.) was, he knew, accused at times of being warm, and very likely, with justice; but still he was able to control his feelings however strong, when time and place forbade a display of them; and, although he keenly felt the pointed insult of His Excellency, he thought it would be better to bear with it for the time, and when a proper opportunity should arrive, as he knew it would, for his manifesting his sense of the insult, to be prepared to avail himself of it. He would tell His Excellency that, in allowing himself to be carried away by his passion to the length of offering a direct insult to the Representatives of the people, he had divested himself of the dignity which should appertain to him as the Representative of Her Majesty the Queen. It could not for a moment be supposed that Her Majesty would on any account offer such an insult to the Commons of Great Britain. But to this consideration Sir Donald might reply there was a wide difference between the consideration due to the Commons of Great Britain and that due to the Assembly of Prince Edward Island. This he (Mr. M.) would admit, but, at the same time, he would remind Sir Donald that there was not a greater difference between the Commons of Britain and the Assembly of Prince Edward Island, than there was between Her Majesty the Queen and Sir Donald. There might not, it was true, be any thing in the language of the Speech at which to take offence; and the very sentence which Sir Donald had, in his delivery of it, loaded with disdain, would not, as it had just been read by the hon. Solicitor General, frighten a child. He (Mr. M.) was not a bad mimic, and if he only had the cocked hat upon his head, he could, he thought, imitate Sir Donald's manner in delivering the sentence, which had been so meekly read by the hon. Solicitor General. The hon. member then gave a specimen of his power of mimicry, by reading the sentence referred to, in a harsh, absolute, peremptory tone. The hon. member then observed, that Sir Henry V. Huntly had been represented as a perfect tiger; and, when the hon. member from Bedeque, who had been so much opposed to him, was chosen Speaker of the House, it was expected that Sir Henry, in delivering his Speech at the opening of the Session, would pointedly mark, by his manner, his strong disapprobation of the choice made by the House. No such disapprobation, however, was shewn by Sir Henry, and, whatever was in his breast, contentment sat upon his brow. His Excellency, Sir Donald, had taken advantage of his position and place in the Council Chamber to put an affront upon the Assembly; but he would not venture, he (Mr. M.) felt certain, to treat any number of persons in the Streets of Charlottetown with the same indignity. He (Mr. M.), as he had already said, had thought it right, quietly to pocket the insult in the Council Chamber; but he would rather be a dog and bark at the moon, than be held incapable of resenting, at a proper time and in a proper manner, such an insult as had been levelled against him and his constituents by His Excellency. And why, he would ask, had Sir Donald insulted the House? Because they had shown a greater regard for the interests of the majority of the people than for that of three officials. Because they had thought the wishes of 63,000, whom they represented, much more deserving of their attention and consideration than the claims, put forth by His Excellency, on behalf of three individuals to retiring pensions, after their having, for many years, been in the annual receipt of the most liberal incomes from the public purse, and the individual pockets of the people. This is, His Excellency thought the House deserving of insult at his hands, because they were faithful in the discharge of their duty to the people. The hon. member concluded by saying he would support the amendment.

(To be continued.)

ERRATA.—In "Sayings and Doings," inserted in Wednesday's paper—last line of the sixth paragraph, for "delight of the age," read eye, &c. First line of the ninth paragraph, for "Rise on, O Sun," read "Ride on," &c.

we must beg leave to tell His Excellency, that the real state of the case is materially at variance with his representation of it. It may be true, we admit, that out of the produce of the Land Assessment, the Government might lawfully have appropriated a sum sufficient to meet all the allowances authorized by the Act for the Encouragement of Education; but we deny that without an authority, such as that bestowed upon the Government in the Ninth Section of the Revenue Bill, it would have been lawful for the Government to appropriate one farthing of the Revenue to the defraying of the Interest on Outstanding Warrants; and if His Excellency contemplated such an act, independent of a power to that effect, expressly conferred upon him by the Representatives of the People, we can only say that, in an arbitrary, not to say malign, spirit, he must have looked forward for its gratification to the exercise of a power, more absolute and unjust than that which led the way to the downfall of Charles the First, when he robbed the people by his arbitrary exactions under the name of Ship Money. We need scarcely hint that we think His Excellency is fast descending the ladder from an elevation, which, as regards himself, serves only to exhibit his incapacity for Government, and confirms the truth of the poet's verse:

"Pigmies are pigmies still tho' placed on Alps."

Respecting the appropriation for Education, we may further observe that His Excellency's Speech fully bears us out in the position we assumed, when we replied to the clamours of the *Islander* and *Gazette*—the organs of his Excellency's views—by asserting that the produce of the Land Assessment might be applied to Educational purposes, without any special action of the Legislature in the last Session; and hence that the outcry raised on this head, by the *Islander* and *Gazette*, had a paltry, pitiful and factious design in it.

It is quite amusing to find his Excellency dwelling at the alleged unconstitutionality of including the appropriations in the Bill of Supply. He, of course, should raise some ground of objection to the Bill; but it is singular that his Excellency was not so quick-sighted on a former occasion, when he assented to a Bill similarly constructed. We allude to the Land Assessment Act, by which taxes are imposed and appropriated. The appropriation authorized by that Act, however, included a provision of £500 for the Lieut. Governor,—and that, we presume, was an effectual bar to all complaint. We might further instance the often-quoted Tenpenny Act, which likewise appropriates the Revenue it produces. Instances, however, of this description, though "thick as leaves in Vallambrose," would not satisfy his Excellency and his obstructive friends, so long as they "agree to differ" with the majority of the Assembly.

THE CANADIAN RECIPROcity BILL.—During the greater portion of the present session of Congress, a special agent of the Canadian government was in Washington, urging on members the propriety of passing the reciprocity bill, and went home a few days since, in the confident expectation that the measure will be passed before the adjournment, and perhaps immediately after the settlement of the slavery question. We are not so sure of the passage of that bill, although it may receive the sanction of the American Congress.—The annexationists in Canada are opposed to the measure, because they suppose it will knock their movement in the head. In this we think they are mistaken. To be sure, it would give the people of Canada almost all the commercial advantages, which they would enjoy under annexation; but, on the other hand, it would make them and the people of the United States more intimate than they ever have been, and we can safely say that the greater the intimacy the greater will be the desire of the Canadians to be annexed. That intimacy would dispel their ignorance and prejudice towards republican institutions; and when once they saw things in their true light, they would unanimously sever their connection with Great Britain, and seek to be their own sovereigns.—*New York Herald*.

LECTURES.—On Wednesday evening, 24th ult., Mr. John Le Page delivered at the Mechanics' Institute an instructive and highly entertaining Lecture on the "Philosophy of Humane Life."—On last Wednesday evening Mr. J. Watt lectured at the same place on "The Atmosphere, and its effects on Animal and Vegetable Life."

On Monday evening, 29th ult., John Arbuckle, Esq. G. W. P., delivered a lecture to a large and respectable audience, at the Town Hall, on "The principles of the Order of the Sons of Temperance."

"I regret," said the Lieutenant Governor on Wednesday last, "that it is not in my power to congratulate you on the results of the present Session." We regret that it is not in our power to congratulate his Excellency on the result of his cunning, in stealing a march upon the Legislature, by proroguing it so unexpectedly as he did. It was, no doubt, an object of great importance to His Excellency to get clear of a body of men whose proceedings had been anything but pleasing to him—and to get clear of them in such a manner as would the most pointedly indicate his indignation or contempt.

On Wednesday morning the Speaker was directed by the House to acquaint His Excellency that they would be prepared to rise on the following day (Thursday), and to request that his Excellency would be pleased to prorogue the Legislature. His Excellency's answer was an evasive one, and unworthy of a Governor—"he would consider of it presently." The Speaker had not had time to communicate to the House his Excellency's reply to their request, when the Usher of the Black Rod commanded, on behalf of the Governor, their attendance at the bar of the Council Chamber. It was thought, of course, that Sir Donald commanded the attendance of the House solely for the purpose of giving his assent to the Revenue Bill; but he took that occasion to prorogue the Houses, preventing the Legislative Council from deciding on the merits of a Bill then before it,—and likewise suspending the action of the House of Assembly, in reference to the Chancery Bill, to which the notice of the Legislature was called by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and obstructing the completion of certain Committee business before the Assembly. His Excellency may have gratified for the moment, by adopting this proceeding, his spleen against the Assembly; but no person can hesitate to say, that he has seriously compromised his own dignity in doing so, and laid himself open to just and severe animadversion.

It will be remembered that on Tuesday—the day previous to the prorogation—a Committee of the whole House passed several Resolutions condemnatory of His Excellency's conduct and policy—with these Resolutions the Committee did not, however, close;—on Wednesday morning, it will likewise be remembered, it was proposed to institute an enquiry into the question, whether the Colonial Secretary was authorized to retain fees to the amount of about £700 received by him in his capacity of Private Secretary, and if not so authorized, he was to be called upon to refund them. Is it not reasonable to suppose, then, that His Excellency's object in prematurely closing the Session, was, in the first place, to prevent further proceedings being taken in reference to himself; and, in the second place, to shield the Colonial Secretary from the consequences of the enquiry into the subject of the fees? That the Governor should thus have given cause for such a supposition, shows how utterly indefensible his conduct has been, and how dangerous the position in which the chief officer of his Government was placed.

We shall not trespass on the patience of our readers with any lengthy comments on the Speech. There is only one paragraph, indeed, which has particularly arrested our attention, and it is that in which His Excellency alludes to the appropriations contained in the Revenue Bill, evidently with the intention of casting odium upon the members of the House of Assembly for voting to themselves, agreeably to the wishes of their constituents, the magnificent sum of twenty-five pounds, for two Sessions' attendance. His Excellency observes that the produce of the Land Assessment, and a sum sufficient to defray the Interest on Out-standing Warrants, would, according to the law, have been applied to their respective purposes by the Government, even if so such appropriation had taken place. Here His Excellency appears, whether wittingly or unwittingly, we pretend not to say, to have fallen into an error similar to that pointed out by the third and last of the Resolutions having reference to His Excellency's public or official conduct, which, on Tuesday last, were adopted by the House when in Committee on the State of the Colony—we mean the substitution of an assertion for a fact; for