this Board who were placed there under that Government, were only 4. Where then are the other 8? It is well known, and the Journals of the House will confirm my assertion, that these hon. gentlemen voted, just according to their own ideas of what was right, and when I held a seat in the Executive, this Board very often put me into a minority. Look no further back than the Journals of last year, and your Honors will see this was the case.

The hon. Mr. Gray.—His Honor states, that the majority of the members in the Council alluded to, are four in number, and his Honor cannot understand that this is a majority—Now your Honors, I am ready to name seven members, if desired by your Honors, but, probably, with the Honor the President's leave, I may call seven out of twelve not a majority: And his Honor the President has stated in the early part of his reply to what fell from me, that if there were any parties outside these walls entertaining "insidious designs" his Honor had never heard of them; and yet before his Honor concluded his speech, his Honor directly accused another gentleman of what I myself have never yet seen, a Mr. McLean as guilty of "insidious designs." So much for his Honor's consistency.

His Honor the PRESIDENT.—I understood his Honor to mean, that they were persons in opposition to the present Government, and I charged Duncan McLean, as being opposed to British principles.

The Hon. Mr. Holl.—His Honor the President has asserted that the Islander newspaper is the organ of the Government, but I think it not difficult to prove the contrary, by a simple fact. Almost the first act of the present Government was to confine the Royal Gazette, the authorized vehicle for conveying all Government notices to the Public, to a single object. Conscious of the evil effects experienced from the course pursued by the late Government in allowing the columns of the late Royal Gazette to be filled with party politics and other objectionable matter, the present Government came to the conclusion, that it would be more correct to restrict that paper to official notices and such general information as might suit the views of all parties, and to publish it in as cheap a form as possible, so as to bring it within the reach of every officer of the state, carefully avoiding all offensive matter. The Government therefore, cannot be answerable for any thing that may appear in any of the public Journals, having no official control over them.

After some further desultory conversation.

The hon. Mr. McDonald rose and said, I think that if there is any one culpable it is His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor. Before the President has thought proper, to accuse Mr. Duncan McLean of endeavouring to introduce republican principles into the Colony, but, Sir, in my opinion Earl Grey would with equal justice be accused. In the Despatch of that Noble Lord transmitted to this Colony in the year 1849, his Lordship strongly recommended a separation of the legislative and official Bodies. Can Earl Gray then, or Mr. Duncan McLean, be accused of insidious designs! That gentleman (pointing to his Honor the President) ought to recollect that Mr. McLean had defended him when, his (his Honor the President's) party deserted him. (The hon. the President, "I did not want him to defend me.") Some of your Honors made an allusion to the Bill with regard to my not having been taken into the Government, but Sir, such a remark, (the hon. gentleman again looking at his Honor the President) proves in a very marked manner his Honor. And your Honor certainly denied that you were a party to, or had any knowledge of, my supersedure from the Presidential Chair. Sir I believe, that you honorable and learned will connect you with that proceeding. Your Honor sent a letter to Mr. Tobin of Halifax. (His Honor the President then moved that his Honor Mr. McDonald's words should be taken down. The standing order was then moved and strangers had to withdraw.

A few minutes after our returning to the Council Chamber the House resumed, and the hon. the Chairman (Mr. Birnie) reported that the Committee recommended, that an Address be presented to His Excellency the Lieut. Governor—And on motion that the report of the Committee be agreed to, the question having been put, the House divided as follows.

Contents, The hons. Mr. President, Swabey, Birnie, Haythorne, Dingwell, Beete, Beaton, Joseph Hensley.

Non contents, the Hons. Mr. McDonald, Holl, Gray.

The motion for the Address to his Excellency was therefore carried.

SUMMARY.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY, TUESDAY, April 27.

COURT OF CHANCERY.

Mr H. Haviland in moving for leave to present the draught of an address to the Lieutenant Governor, requesting that His Excellency will be pleased to appoint a Commission of suitable persons to inquire into the practice and proceedings of the Court of Chancery and the Court of Judicature, with a view to the transfer of the Jurisdiction of the Court of Chancery to the Supreme Court, remarked that it must be admitted by that portion of the public who are at all acquainted with the Court of Chancery, as well as by members of the legal profession, that in consequence of the enormous expense invariably attending suits therein, it would in most cases, be advisable to abandon them altogether. It was fortunate, that the change which he sought could be effected in this Colony without entailing any additional expense upon the Colony. This was not the case in other North American Colonies. In these, it was necessary either to pension off the Master of the Rolls or to make his Common Law judge. But as our Master of the Rolls acts in both capacities. In England a Commission had been appointed, and the proceedings in the Court of Chancery are greatly simplified. But in this Colony, the practice of the Supreme Court is now the same as it was in England more than half a century ago, the expense and intricacy of the proceedings, amounting in many cases, to a denial of justice. The course he (Mr. Haviland) now proposed, had already been adopted in Canada and several of the States of the American Union.

The following is the Address:—

To His Excellency Sir Alexander Bannerman, Knight, Lieut. Governor, &c., &c., &c.

May it please your Excellency;

The House of Assembly request, that Your Excellency may be pleased to appoint a Committee of suitable persons, to inquire into the practice and proceeding of the Court of Judicature, with a view to the transfer of the Jurisdiction of the Court of Chancery to the Supreme Court, if it should be found practicable and beneficial to make such transfer; and with a view to the simplifying and improving the proceedings and practice of the Supreme Court of Judicature; and also, if they should see fit, to prepare a Bill or Bills for the purpose aforesaid, to be submitted to the Legislature, at its next Session.

Committee to wait on His Excellency with the said Address: Messrs. H. Haviland, Clark, and Goff.

Mr. Fraser seconded Mr. Haviland's motion. He thought the proceedings in our Courts could not be too greatly simplified. As for the Court of Chancery, it was entirely out of the reach of common men; and it was notorious, that those who were so unfortunate as once to get involved therein, could, with great difficulty, extricate themselves therefrom. Much attention had been paid to the subject in 1847-8; but there was much room for improvement yet, and he hoped the time would soon come, when they would hear no more of John Doe and Richard Doe.

Mr. H. Haviland admitted that there was still great room for reform in the practice of the Courts. He could not see why a suitor should be told by the Judge of the Supreme Court: "True, you have a remedy; but you are in the wrong Court;" and he thought it was contrary to common sense, that such should be the case. In the United States and in England, this matter had engaged and was still engaging the attention of some of the greatest reformers of the age.

Mr. Davies thought the principal objection that could be alleged against the Court of Chancery, was, the great expense attending suits therein. If the hon. member for George-town (Mr. Haviland), would bring in a Bill to lessen those charges, he would, doubtless, do good. But instead of transferring the business of the Court of Chancery to the Supreme Court, he thought, a suitor was more likely to obtain justice there than in any other court. In the Court of Chancery, all cases were decided on their own merits alone. But in the Supreme Court, lawyers were introduced to bother and puzzle witnesses, as, at times, almost to force them to depose to positive falsehoods. The hon. gentleman instanced the case of a respectable tradesman in this town, who, on one occasion, was so grossly abused by an Attorney of that court, and who felt so strongly on the subject, that he afterwards publicly insulted the individual who had thus attacked him.

Mr. H. Haviland said the individual to whom the hon. member for Belfast (Mr. Davies) alluded, happened not to be witness, but a suitor, in a case of the worst possible description —that between a Father and his Son. Family spirit he deemed worse than Party Spirit, and in this case, the Attorney for the Son had proved to speak in pretty warm terms, of the conduct of the son. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Davies) was the first advocate, out of the profession, he had heard, come forward to defend the Court of Chancery, and he thought the Chancery Bar at home, if they ever heard of the hon. gentleman's advocacy, would certainly vote him a service of plate. As to the Court of Chancery deciding solely on the merits, as stated by the hon. gentleman, he (Mr. Haviland) denied that such was the case. So completely were they tied down by precedents, that it was by no means certain that a case would be decided there solely upon its own merits. He (Mr. Haviland wanted reason and equity to be combined in the same Court; and that the Judges should no longer be compelled to tell a suitor—"You have a good case, but I have no power you no redress," thus necessarily compelling the suitor to commence an action *de novo*, in consequence of the mistake of his Lawyer or Attorney.

Mr. Clark understood the object of the hon. member for Georgetown (Mr. Haviland) was, to transfer the businesss of the Court of Chancery to the Supreme Court. He had often been sorry that this was not the case. In Nova Scotia and Canada, as well as in England, Commissions had, he believed, been issued to report on the practibability of abolishing the Court of Chancery, and as he was in favor of the proposition, he would support the Address.

The Bill to amend the Royal Agricultural Society (Incorporation) Act, was read a third time, and passed.

INDEPENDENCE OF THE LEGISLATURE.

The Bill for the better securing the Independence of the Legislative Council and House of Assembly, and to repeal certain Acts therein mentioned, was committed to a Committee of the whole House—Mr. Macgowan in the Chair.

After one of the stormiest and most protracted debates of the present Session, occupying four hours, the House resumed, and the Bill was reported to the House without any amendment.

Hon. Mr. Whelan moved, that all having reference to the Attorney General, Colonial Secretary, and the Executive Council, be struck out of the Bill; and the motion being seconded and the question put thereon,

The House divided:

Yeas—Hons. Messrs. Whelan, Lord and Warburton; Messrs. McGilll, Davies, Fraser, Clark, Mooney.—8.

Nays—Hons. Messrs. Montgomery, Colonial Secretary, Attorney General, M'Aulay, Conroy, Haviland, McEachen; and Messrs. Yeo, H. Haviland, Goff, McLeod, Beer, and Macgowan—9.

So it passed in he negative.

The Hon. Mr. Whelan then moved, that the Bill be referred back to the Committee, for the purpose of amending the second and third provisions, instead of the Committee of the Peace, and providing that the said Act do go into operation immediately.

The House again divided:

Yeas—8. *Nays*—11; and the names were taken down as in the last preceding division.

So it passed in the negative.

The Hon. Mr. Whelan then moved, that the Report of the Committee be agreed to "this day three months;" when the House again divided as in the two last preceding divisions.

A motion being made, that the Bill be engrossed, and that the Title be "An Act," &c.,

Mr. Davies moved, that the Title be "An Act for securing the Independence of the Government over that of the Assembly and the People."

This motion was negatived without a division.

Mr. Clark then moved, that the Title of the said Bill be "An Act for destroying the Constitutional Rights of the People."

This motion was also negatived on the following division:—

Yeas — Messrs. Clark, Mooney, Macgill, Davies: Hons. Messrs. Lord, Whelan and Warburton.—7.

Nays—Honorable Attorney General, Messrs. Conroy, Haviland, Montgomery, McEachen, Macaulay, Colonial Secretary; Messrs. Haviland, Yeo, Macleod, Goff, Beer, Macgowan, Fraser.—14.

The main motion was then put and carried: Yeas 14: Nays 7.

REVENUE.

The Bill for raising a Revenue was presented to the House by Mr. Montgomery and read the first time. Second reading to morrow.

The House adjourned.

FRIDAY, April 28.

The hon. the Attorney General, immediately after the reading of the Journal, this morning, moved the adoption of the following Resolution:—

"Whereas an amendment to the Title of the Bill before this House, for securing the Independence of Members of the Legislature was proposed by William Clark, Esquire, a member of the Second Electoral District of Prince County, who holds the office of Collector of Impost and Controller of Navigation Laws for Richmond Bay—which amendment is vexatious derogates from the dignity with which the Proceedings of this House should be conducted: *Resolved, Therefore*, That the said amendment be expunged from the Journals of this House."

The House divided on the question as follows:

Yeas — Hons. Messrs. Attorney General, Haviland, Colonial Secretary, Macaulay, Montgomery and Maceachen; Messrs. Yeo, H. Haviland, Goff, Beer, Macleod, Fraser—12.

Nays—Hons. Messrs. Lord, and Warburton; Messrs. Mooney, and Davies—4.

REVENUE BILL.

The Bill for raising a Revenue was then read a second time, committed to a Committee of the whole House—Mr. H. Haviland in the Chair.

Reported agreed to with amendments. To be engrossed.

USURY LAWS.

A Message was received from the Council, intimating that their Honors had passed the Bill to repeal the Usury Laws.

A GHOST STORY.

From the New Orleans Picayune.

A Paris letter tells a good story of a ghost who turned out to be real flesh and blood. We translate it:

Much gossip during a former season took place in the Parisian fashionable world, concerning a husband who committed suicide in order to counterbalance in some way the miserable life he had caused his wife to lead. This husband, who finished his course so well, had commenced in quite an opposite manner. Full of bad qualities, dissipated, a gambler, a roué, he had squandered his own and wife's property, and rendered her unhappy every reason in his power. The wife a woman who merited a better fate, was good and beautiful, winning, and charming, and suffered with admirable resignation her unworthy spouse. Her patience and virtue never faltered for an instant during this severe trial. She had, as is customary in French society in certain circles, a number of male worshippers, and among those was a young baron, immensely rich, passionately attached to the lady, and of very amiable and pleasing manners.

Fallen from a brilliant position and living on loans and the wreck of a fortune, and driven from Paris by his debts, the husband went with his wife to pass the summer at the watering place in the Pyrenees. The baron followed, but the wife compelled him to leave the spot. This conduct touched the husband. For the first time he looked back on his career, he was overcome with shame and remorse. He then accused and condemned himself, and his pity for the poor woman, whose cup he had filled to the brim with the bitter tears of sorrow and humiliation, suddenly became even frenzied in extent. Were I dead," said he to himself she would marry this excellent young man, who loves her, I know, and whom no doubt she is fond of. Be it so! I will make up for the past, and the future shall be happy! The sacrifice shall cost me little. I am tired of my miserable life in which I am a burthen to others and to myself."

As soon as he had taken this resolution he wrote a farewell letter to his wife, praying her to pardon him all his faults towards her in consideration of the total expiation, "It is offered for you," he wrote; "it is to remove the only obstacle to your happiness, that I end my life." Thereupon he started out to put his plan into execution.

The next day his hat and memorandum book, (the letter containing a few farewell lines hurriedly written and passionately expressed, as might be supposed,) were found on a brink of a precipice in the mountains.

He had written and then thrown himself into the sombre abyss, the depths of which no human eye could measure.

What this generous husband anticipated took place. His widow shed a few tears of tenderness as a legitimate tribute to so disinterested an act. had his decease legally proved, passed a year in mourning, and then became the baron's spouse. She knew then what happiness was for the first time in her life.

The tragical end of the first husband became the basis of a poetical legend which was all the fashion for years in the Pyrenees. The poets, inspired by imagination, enriched the story with fabulous exaggerations, as the real facts were as follows:

By the time the heroic husband had reached the summit of the mountain, his mental condition was dissipated by the fresh air of the morning and the salutary exercise of a long walk: his mind became calmer, turned to wiser reflections, and the sight of the abyss inspired him with an act which he remember Talleyrand's philosophic axiom "Be suspicious of a first impulse."

Suspicion seized him, and reflection gave him counsel. Why kill himself, if he could obtain his object without recourse to that extremity? Was it not absurd to give up life at thirty years of age for a sentimental exaggeration or a cowardly weakness! Would it not be better for him to pass himself off for dead, and then commence a new career and seek his fortune in distant countries? His purse, which he had accidently taken with him, contained sixty Louis d'ors. With plenty of satisfaction, and few scruples of conscience that sum was sufficient to enable him to start out in fresh adventures and speculations, and in leaving his native country he proceeded only a few days the result, which his numerous creditors would have obtained.

His decision was taken. He contented himself with playing a comedy instead of a drama. The properties and decorations of the scene were seeing and easily arranged—the hat near the brink of the precipice—the memorandum book—the few eloquent words; and then instead of precipitating himself into the abyss at his feet, he simply threw down it an old log of a tree, which, ploughing, up the earth and tearing aside the bushes, left indubitable traces of his body's rapid descent. Two peasants shortly after, at a distance, seeing a man so near the precipice, and then a dark body go swiftly down its side, believed, in their fright, that it was the human being who had really taken that route, and they afterwards declared positively that they saw the suicide.

Vigilant, watchful, and in good health, our defunct hero traversed the Pyrenees, crossed over into Spain, reached Cadiz, and sailed for America.

Seven or 8 years after this fabulous event, the baron and baroness were at their seat in Franche Comptè, and they were suddenly surprised one evening by the appearance of an unexpected guest —a living ghost—the first husband.

The baroness fainted—it was the least she could do. She was taken to her apartment, and the ghost opened an explanation with his martial successor. The gentleman had changed his plan of suicide just as he was about to put it into execution; that was no crime. He had travelled and had not written, it was from motives of delicacy, as he did not wish to write until he had made his fortune. He had not succeeded in his enterprises; great happiness would have to console him for his misfortunes. He returned to claim his wife; it was his incontestible right. He found his wife another man's wife; in this second marriage was of no more null and void.

The baron was about to answer this rapidly delivered discourse, when he was informed his wife —their wife—had fainted.

"Go," said the first husband, "I permit a farewell; but be so kind as to have me served with something to eat for I am very hungry."

A servant received the baron's orders, conducted the ghost to a pavillion in the park, spread a collation before him, and left him alone. In an hour the baron appeared, a pistol in each hand.

"You must see," said he to a gesture, "that one of us two is in the way of the other."

"A duel!" exclaimed the ghost. "Bah! my position is too advantageous. I refuse, positively."

"Nothing was said concerning a duel, monsieur," replied the baron coldly. "My position is also too advantageous. You have forgotten that you are dead; that you are buried; that the only servant who knows of your presence here is devoted to me; that we are in a solitary spot; that I am armed, and that I can kill you with impunity. That is what I am going to do."

"No, monsieur, no; you will not kill me," said the ghost, quietly crossing his arms, and setting himself more comfortable in his arm chair. "If it had been your design and determination to kill me, you would have begun by bringing it without using so many useless words. Confess frankly that you have a better proposition to make to me."

"Well, monsieur, since you speak of arranging the affair, so be it; I am rich—you are not."

"A gleam of satisfaction passed over the ghost's features. He listered to his host's proposal with evident pleasure, and showed himself obstinate only about the sum total of the arrangements. To expatriate himself a second time and forever, to leave his chaos, and never come to life, he asked a fortune to allow him to live as agreeably as a dead man could, and he fixed the sum at 100,000 *ronus*.

"Will you cheapen your happiness? he said to the baron. "Would you insult your wife by estimating her at a more moderate price!"

The bargain was completed, and the defunct found such a "worth" more easily than he had made good use of his time in America. The sum given him by the baron allowed him to undertake extensive enterprises which succeeded admirably, and in a few years the ghost was worth 100,000 francs.—Notwithstanding and although Paris is the paradise of the rich, he would have returned there had he not learned that the baroness died shortly after his death. The baron had married her only a few days. Then he came back to France with his millions and an assumed name. He was long one of the Parisian lions. In the last few years he was seen in the Champs Elysées, proud of that capital of the class. His taste and splendour were much admired. He was a dandy—a middle-aged one—with hair slightly gray, a tall figure, a jocular and frank expression in his dress, a good horseman, a great card-player, a passionate lover of art, at the opera, French and Italian, every night, and well known in the green-rooms. He was known in the Bois de Boulogne, that had taken the title of baron, and his button hole was ornamented with a number of ribbons of unknown orders and countries.

This opulent adventurer ended by relating to some of his confidential friends the story of his death and resuscitation. Death really came a few days since and surprised him in the midst of his splendour, and the confidential friends, who told us the secret, secretly, the anecdote of the suicide which brought its author so much money and so much honour.

DRINKING USAGES OF POLITE SOCIETY.

By R. B. Grindrod, LL.D.

No one cause has contributed so much to the formation of intemperate habits, at festive entertainments, as the practice of *health drinking*: and, in more modern times, the custom of drinking toasts, which has indeed, in a great measure, superseded the former.

The practice of drinking healths was interdicted at the court of Louis XIV., of France, in consequence of its strong inducement to the formation of habits of intemperance.

Sir Wm. Temple, during a diplomatic visit to the Bishop of Munster, was witness to a remarkable example of health-drinking, which he denominates "the most *episcopal* way of drinking that could be invented." The bishop called for wine to drink the health of his guest; and, thereupon, he filled a silver gilt, that might hold about *two quarts* or more —he took it, pulled out the clapper, and gave it to me, who was then just to show he had played fair. This jolly peal was rung by every gentleman in the hall, myself excepted, who could never in my life manage more than *one quart* of wine at a draught." This strong inducement to the Bishop of Munster by Sir Wm. Temple to his brother during his embassy from Charles the Second, to the Bishop of Munster, the Act passed in the reign of Edward the First, Assembly, passed June 1646, forbade the practice of drinking healths among its members.* That many reflecting ministers of the Church of England also condemn this practice with some degree of alarm, may be seen from the following remarks by a zealous member of the establishment:—"To exceed the bounds of temperance, is a sin of a deeper dye than we imagine; to entice others to it, to force them to drink healths (that ungodly practice,) which could not in the least contribute to promote the health of those, or to delight their own, *through the excess which such practices do infro-duce.*" (*Ibid.*)

The practice of health-drinking and toasting, has, since that period, been denounced by wise men as fraught with evil consequences, and has been invariably depicted as one of the greatest incentives to intemperance. Addison, in his "Thousand Pounds" an epistle prefixed to *Mr. Bradshaw's* Sermon, called "*The Marriage Feast*," thus remarks:—"Also to the great the *British and national disposition* of those that think there is no true welcome, nor good fellowship, as they term it, unless there be deep carousing healths to the bride and bridegroom, and every idle fellow, or wistrous, that the company's sorry he drowned in drink, that not religion only, but reason be wholly exiled, and the meeting itself be rather called a drunken match, than a *marriage feast*."†

* Act of General Assembly, 13th June, 1846. No. XI.

† "God's terrible Voice in the City, in the History of the two late dreadful Judgments of the Plague and Fire, sent down to London, by the Minister of St. Mildred's." 1667.

‡ Extracted from a work entitled "The Great Evil of Health drinking." 1684.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE ON THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS.

Your Committee, appointed to examine and report on the Public Accounts for the year 1853, have to report: That after carefully examining the matters to them referred, they find that the Expenditure for the Financial year ending 31st January, 1854, amounted to £29,433 6 5¾, and the receipts at the Treasury, for the same period, to £33,845 8 5¾, thereby shewing an excess of Receipts over the Expenditure of £5,911 17, which, after taking into account the Bonds and other assets in the Treasury, reduces the Debt of the Colony, on the 31st January, 1854, to £8,028 11 6¾, after providing for the sum of £11,000, Treasury Notes afloat, and £10,000 Debentures, as herein set forth, viz.:

THE GOVERNMENT OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

Dr.		£	s.	d.
To Warrants due and unpaid, 31st Jan.	1854,	11,416	5	7
Treasury Notes afloat,		1,500	0	0
Debentures,		10,000	0	0
		£32,916	5	7

Cr.	£	s.	d.
By Assets in Treasurer's hands, 31st Jan. 1854,	29,887	14	1
Balance against the Colony, 31st Jan., 1854,	3,028	11	6
	£32,916	5	7

Dr.	£	s.	d.
To balance against the Colony, Jan. 31, 1853,	8940	8	6
Expenditure, in 1853-4	29,433	6	5¾
	£38,373	14	11¾

Cr.	£	s.	d.
By Receipts for the year 1853-4,	35,345	3	5¾
Balance as above, against the Island on 31st January, 1854,	3,028	11	6
	£38,373	14	11¾

But to show more clearly where the increase as well as decrease has taken place in the different Branches of the Revenue, during the past, as compared with the previous year, your Committee have prepared the following Tabular Statement:

INCREASE IN THE YEAR 1853-4.

IMPOST AND CUSTOMS.		
31st Jan. 1854.	26,648 16 2¼	
1853.	25,702 7 5¾	
		£946 8 9½
HEAD MONEY.		
1854.	£54 17 5	
1853.	35 6 2	
		£19 11 2
LAND ASSESSMENT.		
1854.	£4921 19 7¾	
1853.	2184 0 11¼	
		£2736 18 8
REGISTER OFFICE.		
1854.	£317 8 11¾	
1853.	281 10 3¼	
		£35 18 8
INTEREST ON BONDS.		
1854.	£269 4 10¼	
1853.	181 19 7	
		£87 5 3¼
SALES OF CROWN LANDS.		
1854.	£334 15 10	
1853.	103 2 8¼	
		£231 13 1¾
FINES AND PENALTIES.		
1854.	£117 8 10¼	
1853.	100 5 0¼	
		£17 3 10
1854. Paid into the Treasury on account of Lunatics,	138 6 2	
Sundry items,	39 16 9	
		£4,253 2 5¾

DECREASE IN THE YEAR 1853-4.

LIGHT AND ANCHORAGE.		
31st Jan. 1853.	£729 4 3	
1854.	617 11 4¼	
		£111 13 0½
POST OFFICE.		
1853.	£950 5 1¼	
1854.	944 19 7	
		£5 5 10½
SECRETARY'S OFFICE.		
1853.	£172 1 7¾	
1854.	159 9 5	
		£12 19 10½
WHARFS.		
1853.	£100 5 0¼	
1854.	99 0 2	
		£1 4 10½
LICENCES.		
1853.	£600 0 0	
1854.	545 15 8	
		£60 4 4

Balance being an excess on last year's Revenue (1853) over that of the previous year (1852) of		4,061 14 5¼
		£4,252 2 5¾

Your Committee observe that the House of Assembly have, on several previous occasions, had to remark upon the negligence of several of the Collectors of Impost and other Officers in the collection of the Revenue, for which they have frequently, in the time before the Legislature, for examination; and notwithstanding the repeated warnings which have been given, they find that the Impost accounts from the following places have not been forthcoming this Session, viz: from Flat River, Crapaud, Orwell Bay, Rustico, Tracadie and Covehead, Murray Harbour, Tignish, Bay Fortune and Grand River. Under these circumstances, your Committee recommend that a peremptory notice be forwarded to the several Collectors of Impost, directing them severally to furnish their accounts within Fourteen days after the meeting of the Legislature in each year.

Your Committee further recommend that the Treasurer be notified to lay, annually, before the Legislature a detailed account of the moneys arising from Houses and other Buildings to which there is more than ten acres of land attached, according to the provisions of the 15th and 76th sections of the Act passed in the 15th year of Her present Majesty's Reign, for the encouragement of Education.

Your Committee further remark that no Wharfage money collected at the hereinafter named places have been received, viz: Hillsborough Ferry, Lot 48, Grand River, Lot 56, Bedeque, New London, New Glasgow, St. Peter's Bay, North side, Head of St. Peter's Bay, Pinette and Lot 61, Cardigan River, Murray Harbour, and your Committee recommend, that the Government do institute an immediate inquiry as to the cause of withholding the accounts and money realized from these Wharfs; and unless satisfactory reasons be given, and immediate payments made, by the Officers in charge, they be discharged from holding the Office of Warfinger, future Returns to be made quarterly to the nearest Collector of Impost, as the Law prescribes.

Your Committee, find several items, amounting to £3 15s. 5¾, charged in the Auditor's Accounts as incidental charges in the Impost Accounts, from Murray Harbour. In the absence of those accounts, your Committee cannot name the entries in which the deficiency occurred; but your Committee recommend that the Collector of that Port, be called upon to pay the said amount, into the Treasury, with as little delay as possible.

Your Committee observe, in the accounts furnished by the Sheriff of Prince County, for holding the late Election, an item, charged as follows, viz:

For 42 Candidate's Clerks,	£21 0 0

Although the Sheriff's accounts, for Prince County, appear to have been referred to a Committee of the Hon. Legislative Council, consisting of the Honbles. Messrs. Warburton and Rice, to examine the same, and report thereon—which Committee reported the said item of £21, for 42 Candidate's Clerks, correct, and in consequence thereof, the said amount was allowed by the late Executive Council, it nevertheless