

so you had better beware, and submit to our authority at once." That was, not indeed, the language of the majority, but it was their meaning: and he would just ask, if it became men in their senses to speak in such a way, either to Her Majesty's Representative, the Imperial Government, or the Sovereign herself; and whether men of sane minds, if really intent upon the object which they professed to have in view, would not consent to pursue that course, by the observance of which alone they who had it in their power to concede or withhold it, had desired it could be attained.

Mr. POPE then rose, and commenced his speech by saying, that he felt much disposed to sympathize with those who had to entrust their defence to so injudicious an advocate as the Hon. Sol. General; whose course of argument was, generally, much more calculated to convict an innocent person, than secure or promote the interests of any party, whose cause he stood forth to defend. The hon. and learned member had, in his condemnation of the views entertained by the majority of the House, gone so far as to question the sanity of men who, as the majority of the House seemed disposed to do, could persevere for the attainment of their object, in a course which he (Hon. Sol. General) represented as condemned, both by the Lieutenant Governor and the Imperial Government; but he would tell the hon. and learned member, that he (Mr. Pope) was very far from recognizing his competency to pronounce judgment in the matter; as it was well known that there was no act of misgovernment but what he would defend. He was well aware of all the abuse which had been directed against himself individually, and how much his motives had been misrepresented by the hired Press of the officials, who were accused of fingering the Public Money both at the same public meetings, and to a greater extent throughout the country, by itinerant agents and blustering defenders of the Government and its officials; but, secure in the perfect legality, and constitutional prosperity of the cause with which he had identified himself; and, fully conscious of his own individual integrity of purpose, he felt that he could equally afford to disregard the bullying of the greatest villain by whom his public conduct and motives might be assailed, and the courtly censures of the Representative of Royalty, or even Royalty itself. The late Lieutenant Governor himself admitted, that the Government of this Island ought not, any more than those of the other Provinces in North America, to be carried on in opposition to the opinions of the inhabitants; the Colonial Minister had, previously made the same acknowledgement; His Excellency Sir Alexander Bannerman had avowed himself to be authorised to make the same admission; and yet the Hon. Sol. General had the amazing effrontery to demand, that the country should submit to be governed by an insignificant minority in the Assembly, and the Government upheld by them, of which two of them formed a part. He for one, was determined never to acquiesce, in the right of the minority to govern the country; and he was fully prepared to defend, to the utmost, his own right and those of the people as British subjects, to demand a Government possessing the confidence of the majority of the Assembly; and should circumstances demand it, he would recommend that the House should have recourse to the extreme constitutional remedy of completely withholding the supplies. He felt no dread of being returned to his constituents; and he was quite prepared, to meet their verdict. There was necessarily, no constitutional connection, between the question touching the introduction of Responsible Government, and the consideration of the Civil List Bill. The first wholly concerned the system of Government; the second was one of a mere pecuniary character. That they were essentially distinct in their nature, was admitted by Sir Donald Campbell; and his offer to take three of the Responsible party into his Council, was nothing less than a practical recognition of the fact. The Hon. Sol. General had told them, that the Revenue Bill of last Session was unconstitutional; and, in His Excellency's Speech, they were told it was objectionable. That it was constitutionally

objectionable, he (Mr. Pope) did not, however, hesitate positively and distinctly to deny; and to prove that it was not so, it was sufficient to refer to the Permanent Revenue Acts, by which the people of this Colony were coerced, and the Land Assessment Act, in all of which there were direct specific appropriations of the monies to be raised by the operation of the same Acts: although several Acts of the Imperial Parliament could also be referred to, in support of the constitutionality of the appropriation made in that Bill. If the Hon. Sol. General thought that by the power or severity of his reflections, he could coerce the majority and induce them to retrace their steps, he was indeed greatly mistaken. They knew that the people had rights as well as the Queen; and they were as well defined in the one case as the other. They sought not to invade the latter; but they were determined to assert the former. The reference to the course pursued and the stand made by the late Governor Sir Donald Campbell, was in his (Mr. Pope's) opinion, most impolitic. The Hon. Sol. had said that His Excellency, the present Governor, had just taken up the thread as it fell from the hands of his predecessor, and assumed the occupancy of the same position in which Sir D. Campbell stood at the close of the Session in May last, with respect to the grand question at issue; but he (Mr. Pope) would tell the hon. and learned member, that if he thought His Excellency had meant, by any thing contained in his reference to the closing part of the late Governor's Speech, to reiterate the insult to the Assembly which had proceeded from his predecessor, Sir Donald Campbell, it would take him (Mr. Pope) no longer than whilst he could rise from his chair, to repel it with indignation; and to tell His Excellency, that he would never submit to be driven into any humiliating submission to the commands or compliance with the views of any Government, however high and great might be the authority and power by which they had been established and were upheld, if they were subversive of the rights of the People. But he (Mr. Pope) did not put any such construction upon the Speech, as that which the Hon. Sol. General seemed to think it ought to bear, but would patiently await the time, when His Excellency shall more fully declare his views.

To be continued.

## THE EXAMINER.

Monday, April 21, 1851.

### THE QUESTION SETTLED.

ON Monday evening last the House of Assembly went into committee on the Lieut. Governor's Message of the 12th inst., relative to the introduction of Responsible Government. This Message was noticed in our last. Mr. COLES submitted two resolutions: the first to the effect, that it should be recommended to the House to pass a Civil List Bill, embodying the allowances demanded by Earl Grey, in order to secure the introduction of Responsible Government; and the second having for its object the recommending to the House the imposition of an additional tax of one farthing per acre, to be levied on all owners or occupiers of lands of not less than 500 acres, possessed by each individual, towards defraying the expenses of the Civil List of this Island. These propositions were encountered with the most determined or rather reckless hostility by the minority; who, like a pent up or beleaguered band of desperadoes, whose past enormities left them no hopes of favour or of mercy, fought to the last with the most insensate, furious and malignant obstinacy. The days of the faction, however, had been numbered; and their fate was inevitable. The Resolutions were agreed to in Con-

mittee, and adopted by the House on the usual division. The further proceedings of the Majority, that evening, were characterized by that celerity, determination, and unity of purpose, which have often been remarkable in the movements of conquerors; and the appointment of a Committee, consisting of Messrs. Coles, Whelan, Pope, Davies, and Fraser, to prepare an Address to His Excellency in accordance with the first Resolution, and to prepare and bring in a Civil List Bill; and of another, consisting of Messrs. Fraser, Jardine, and Lord, to prepare and bring in a Bill in accordance with the second; were speedily followed by the report, by Mr. Coles, of a draft Address to His Excellency which, as below given, was adopted on the usual division of 14 to 7.

### MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY;

The House of Assembly have had under their consideration Your Excellency's Message of the 12th inst., and have agreed to the accompanying Resolution, the substance of which they shall be prepared to embody in a Civil List Bill.

On Tuesday this Address was presented to his Excellency; and, without the least unnecessary delay, he was pleased to reply as follows:

[MESSAGE.]

A. BANNERMAN, Lieut. Governor,

The Lieutenant Governor has received the Assembly's Address of the 14th inst., with satisfaction. It will enable him to fulfil instructions, involving, as he considers, the faith and honor of the Crown. He believes he cannot better terminate the discussion which has now arisen between the Assembly and him, (but which he is happy to think has not much impeded public business) than by quoting extracts from a Despatch of Lord John Russell to the Governor General of Canada, 14th October, 1839, on the subject of Responsible Government. That Despatch, the Lieut. Governor believes was referred to in the Assembly, more than four years ago, and ever since that time, more or less political excitement and animosity have existed in Prince Edward Island, and which he cannot help thinking must be very prejudicial to the interests of the community. When Responsible Government is introduced therefore, in so far as the Lieut. Governor is concerned, it shall have a fair trial, he is most desirous to see this Colony increased in prosperity; it is his fervent wish that the unpleasant discussions which have arisen about Responsible Government may cease and the feelings they have created gradually subside:

"Her Majesty has no desire to maintain any system of policy among Her North American Subjects which opinion condemns. In receiving the Queen's commands, therefore, to protest against any declaration at variance with the honor of the Crown, and unity of the Empire, I am, at the same time instructed to announce Her Majesty's gracious intention to look to the affectionate attachment of her people in North America as the best security for permanent dominion."

"It is necessary for this purpose that no official misconduct should be screened by Her Majesty's Representative in the Provinces, and that no private interests should be allowed to compete with the general good."

"Every political constitution in which different bodies share the supreme po-

weris only enabled to exist by forbearance of those among whom this power is distributed. In this respect, the example of England may well be imitated. The Sovereign using the prerogative of the Crown to the utmost extent, and the House of Commons exerting its power of the purse to carry all its resolutions into immediate effect, would produce confusion in the country in less than a twelvemonth. So, in a Colony, the Governor thwarting every legitimate proposition of the Assembly, and the Assembly continually recurring to its power of refusing Supplies, can but disturb all political relations, embarrass trade, and retard the prosperity of the people. Each must exercise a wise moderation. The Governor must only oppose the wishes of the Assembly, where the honor of the Crown or the interests of the Empire are concerned, and the Assembly must be ready to modify some of its measures for the sake of harmony, and for a reverent attachment to the Authority of Great Britain."

A. B.

April 15th, 1851.

His Excellency and the majority of the Assembly having thus at length come to a full and satisfactory understanding with respect to future proceedings on both sides, a Civil List Bill, embodying the stipulated allowances, was the same day introduced by Mr. COLES, which, having gone through the usual stages, was passed on Wednesday, and forthwith sent up to the Council. With respect to the passing of this Bill, it would be wrong not to chronicle the factious opposition of the minority; who—as the serpent with its crushed head beneath the heel of its destroyer, still writhes and wriggles, and in token of unsubdued, though impotent malignity, elevates its stingless tail—gave evidence, even whilst the fatal bow-string was tightening about their necks, of their undiminished although powerless hatred of the principles and measures, which consummate the doom of the Oligarchy; and struggled, writhed, and kicked to the last; the expiring effort of the Minority being the recording of their names against a Bill, having for its immediate object the full practical recognition of the people's just privilege to choose their own form of constitutional government, to the utter confusion and downfall of those who have so long held them in thralldom, and to the utmost of their power excluded them from all share in the administration of their own affairs.

In consenting to grant the retiring allowances, demanded for the Attorney General and the Colonial Secretary, the majority of the House have neither abandoned any principle of action, nor recanted any political opinion. They have yielded to nothing less than absolute necessity. The instructions, by which His Excellency was bound, with regard to those allowances, were imperative. He could not concede Responsible Government, unless the House should, in the first place, concede the pensions. As it was therefore, apparent that, unless the House should, in some way, satisfy the Home Government, with respect to those allowances, his Excellency would be obliged, as he had intimated to the House, to refer the whole matter back to the Home Government for reconsideration, and one certain consequence of his doing so would be the postponement, for at least another year, if not to a still further and indefinite period, of the contemplated change in