

# The Colonial Herald,

AND

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### PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT.

#### HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY, MARCH 2.

##### ON THE SENDING OF THE TROOPS TO THE EAST POINT

Hon. Mr. PALMER, by command of his Excellency, laid before the house several documents relative to this matter, (as moved for on a former day by the hon. member, Mr. D. Macdonald,) and then moved their committee on the committee on public accounts. The house, on motion of the chairman, Mr. Longworth, then resolved itself into a committee of the whole on said accounts.

Subsequent to the reading of the several affidavits by the chairman, a pause of considerable length ensued, when Mr. COOPER rose, and said, he hoped some notice would be taken of the subject; for his part, he expected these documents would have brought to light some justification. Something very horrible might have been expected to have happened to justify the employment of the military in this instance; but these papers go no farther than to show, that such was uncalculated; that the Sheriff could have done all that was needed; and he hoped the unjustifiableness of the steps adopted would not pass unnoticed. As to the affidavit of Mr. Macguire, that was insignificant, and the others were a mere repetition of his evidence.

Mr. COLES said, no one could forget the appearance of Mr. Macgowan, the Sheriff, when he arrived here to give the information, relative to the riotous assembling of the people; whose conduct and violent threats, it was very apparent, had made great impressions upon him, so much so, that he would have been glad to embrace a mere trifle for his property. In consequence, some hon. members may contend the civil force should have been first tried; on the other hand, the Sheriff had declared it was impossible to get the aid and assistance of any of the inhabitants in that locality. These, said the hon. member, are grave reasons; yet, I cannot refrain from stating my opinion to be, that other means should have been attempted, previous to the military being called out; though he would not deny that it was the duty of the representatives of the people, to uphold the laws and protect the peace.

The Hon. SPEAKER reminded hon. members that it was in King's county where this mob was collected. Had it been in other parts of the Island, the probability was that the civil force would have been amply sufficient; but it could not be forgotten, that that had, upon two former occasions, been tried and found completely insufficient. The Sheriff, upon one occasion, was surrounded by four or five hundred persons, who, with the most gross and brutal threats, had set him and the laws at defiance; had mutilated his horse, stoned himself, and obliged him to flee for his life. Can it be supposed, or expected that officers will run into danger, whereby their lives might be sacrificed? Yet he (the Speaker) doubted not but the civil force would have been first employed, had it not been for a letter from the spot, delivered by a member of this house at the very moment the Executive Council were deliberating on what course to pursue. The most violent threats were held out, even to the shedding of blood; and it bore the signatures of three persons. I ask then, said the (hon. Speaker), if the lives and property of the peaceful subjects of her Majesty are to be jeopardized, and the Executive remain inactive, and look tamely on, because a little expense will be the consequence of action? Is it not of frequent occurrence in other countries? Do we not read of the military force having been called out to prevent unlawful assemblies of the people in the old country, even where violence was not expected? But in this case, strong grounds existed for believing that the civil power would be defeated. We might now have been deploring the loss of human life, then what would have been said of the Executive? Why, sir, that they ought to have acted with greater caution, knowing how ineffectual milder measures had been on two former occurrences in that county. Instead of censuring the Executive, as some hon. members had done, he (the Speaker) was of opinion that that body was entitled to, and deserved the thanks of the whole community, for the caution and determination they had displayed in preserving the public peace, and upholding the supremacy of the laws.

Mr. DOUSE was of opinion, that if the military had been sent, years ago, to that part of the Island, much good would have been effected; it would have taught those lawless people, that the law, and rights of property were alike inviolable. He much regretted that the people in that quarter had been tutored by an hon. member to disrespect both; they have too long adopted his advice, which has been unfortunate for their peace and prosperity. He thought no blame should be attached to the government; and if there was any, it was their not having come to an earlier determination to suppress those illegal proceedings. However, the effect now produced has been of the most salutary kind. My constituents, continued the hon. member, have too much good sense to join in its condemnation; but they loudly complain in having to help to pay the expense—and think that those who were the cause should pay it—and he fully agreed with them. It was a hardship that one county should be taxed to keep down the lawless actions of another. What has been the conduct of many persons for many years in that quarter? Who have been deluded by bad advice towards their landlords? He would instance the Messrs. Stewart, who have been calumniated by their tenantry in the highest degree. What have they and their agents received from them in return for all the inconveniences and troubles of lawsuits? The reply was short—it is ingratitude; and yet these gentlemen proved themselves to be of the most liberal class of landlords in the colony. Courts of law were abused, its officers obstructed, and for years repeated refusals to come to any terms whatever for the future holdings of their tenantry. However, said the hon. member, he now trusted that those persons have been made sensible of their errors—they would in future act more consistent, and not be the means of obliging the Executive to impose obedience to the laws by a military force.

Mr. D. MACDONALD said, the whole of the grounds whereon the Executive had determined to send the military force was the affidavit of that vagabond Macguire; the others were a mere echo of his statements. The hon. member denied any knowledge of the contents of the letter alluded to by the hon. Speaker, further than that he (Mr. Macdonald) was given to understand it was a petition to his Excellency; and had the hon. Speaker at any time expressed his wish to know the particulars, he would not have withheld it from him.

Mr. COOPER added his statement to that of the hon. member, respecting the threatening letter, as neither the hon. member nor the bearer of it knew its contents. The evidence of this Macguire goes to prove, that the people collected around his premises meditated no violence, from the fact of the individual himself having frightened them away.

Mr. MONTGOMERY assured the house the statement of the hon. member (Mr. D. Macdonald) was strictly correct, as he (Mr. Montgomery) was present when the letter was delivered.

Mr. YEZ contended that the government were perfectly justified in the decision they had come to; it could not be denied that very great excitement existed, caused by the various reports then in circulation.

Mr. MACINTOSH disputed the accuracy of the affidavit of Macguire, as several names therein sworn to as being present, was not the truth; and that of Mr. Macgowan, was a pack of stuff.

Mr. D. MACLEAN was sorry to hear the hon. member say that it was legal to employ the regular troops in the colonies, to suppress riot and to support the laws, upon which subject, he seemed to be ill informed. In Britain, peculiar laws exist to authorise the magistrates to call for military aid, but in the colonies the commanding officer must, to a certain extent, exercise his discretion on receiving an order from the civil authorities. To elucidate his meaning, he would suppose Halifax to be disaffected, and the magistrates were to partake of the general feeling, they might, on some pretence or other, order the troops from Citadel Hill, and take possession of the fortress. This is not a visionary or improbable case, the same having actually occurred a few years since in the fortified city of Quebec, and the unfortified city of Montreal, and the military officers in each case very fortunately possessed the good sense of disobeying the orders. Martial law in England would be tantamount to civil war, if not revolution; but it is far otherwise in the colonies; there, if the civil power be insufficient

to maintain the peace, it becomes the duty of the Governor, by and with the advice of his council, to place the colony under martial law. Many cases, said the hon. member fell within his own knowledge, wherein the military acted upon their own responsibility. He was present at an affair in the West Indies, when the civil force was overpowered, and still the officer commanding the 93d regiment would not allow his soldiers to support them, although drawn up, and the Governor promptly placed the colony under martial law. In 1832, long before any rebellion was dreamed of in Canada, during an election riot in Montreal, which was believed to endanger the peace of the city, Col. Macintosh, commanding the 15th regiment, drew his men up in the square, thinking he was perfectly safe in doing so, as he had then written orders in his pocket, from magistrates: the military were attacked with a shower of stones, &c., they fired, and three lives were lost; Colonel Macintosh was arraigned for murder, and only escaped condemnation by an accident in summoning the jury! England is too proud and wealthy to wish or expect the colonies to pay any expense connected with the movements of her troops. In Canada, he (Mr. Maclean) well knew that not only the regulars, but all the expenses of the volunteers, had been defrayed by the military chest; and if the commissariat officer here had been acting in the strict line of his duty, all expenses would have been charged in his accounts to head quarters. But it happened he had overstepped his duty in permitting himself to be made an agent in the matter. He (Mr. D. Maclean), recollected a strong case in point. It must be familiar to many, that when the insurrection broke out in Lower Canada, in 1837, the troops were all withdrawn from Upper Canada, in order to suppress it, but a commissariat officer was left behind in the capital; the disaffected, taking advantage of the absence of the military, assaulted the colony with insurrection from within, and invasion from without. In this emergency, the Lieutenant Governor ordered, or requested, the commissariat officer to lend the assistance of his office to the preservation of the city. Certainly, if it be possible to conceive a case where such assistance would be justifiable, it was that one. But it did not avail the officer; Commissariat General Routh suspended him from his office, and in the published matter between the two, it was clearly laid down by commissary Routh, that no officer in his department can receive an order from any colonial authority. It was therefore the duty of the commissariat officer here, to have received his orders through the officer of the regiment stationed here; and, as a matter of course, to charge his disbursements against the military chest, instead of covering himself with treasury warrants. Nothing therefore but a knowledge that the proceedings had been irregular, can induce the authorities here to apply to this house for payment of the accounts before us, and which he would vote against.

Mr. COOPER said, as he had previously expressed himself, he would not detain the house, but at once submit the following resolution—  
*Resolved*, That with regard to the information laid before the house, by his Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, as the grounds for sending the military and special constables into King's county, it does not appear that the Sheriff, John Macgowan, Esq., had been at any time interrupted in his duty as Sheriff.

Mr. RAE could not approve of the resolution of the hon. member, neither would he go so far as to say that the part of the country to which the military were sent, was not in a high state of agitation; yet he believed the Sheriff had not been forthcoming; and he (Mr. RAE) thought those who undertook such offices, should exercise the reverse of a timorous disposition in the performance of their duty, and thus he would say, there was but little real cause to warrant the expedition of the military. Is there, said the hon. member, any precedent, in any one of her Majesty's colonies, where the people were taxed to pay the expenses of such a proceeding as this? He knew there was none in Canada. The lumping up together of these expenses, is objectionable in some degree; and the affidavits do not prove that even the appointment of special constables were required, from any resistance the Sheriff had met with. He (Mr. RAE) viewed the evidence of the witness Macguire with considerable suspicion; he might have thought to make a joke of it; as his evidence before a committee of this house was anything but straight forward; in fact it was very equivocating. He was a freetholder, and then again, he was not a freetholder; the property was his own, and then again, he had not the deeds; he became possessed of it by what he had done, and then again, it was not his own, as he had yet more to do, &c. &c.

Hon. Mr. PALMER said, he regretted as much as any hon. member of the House, that the country should have to pay so large a sum for such a purpose. The Executive knew that great expense would attend the course of proceeding they had thought well of to advise. But could it be fairly avoided? Let us not lose sight altogether of the dreadful consequences that might have happened had they been less determined. Let us also take a review of other countries, where numberless precedents can be found of a less urgent nature than was this, where the aid of the military was called in. He (Mr. PALMER) regretted that in part of the colony to which military were ordered, should be that state to require such a force. But, where, Sir, could it be possible to collect a civil force to meet a mob of two hundred and fifty persons, whose threats were of the most ruthless and violent character? He (Mr. PALMER) would give an instance of the character of this particular part of the colony, which had occurred in his professional experience: he had been consulted respecting an interruption to a former Sheriff of that county, in the execution of his duty. And I, said the hon. member, first suggested to him that he should have called out the constabulary to his aid. But soon was I differently convinced, when he seriously told me that they even could not be depended on; more particularly that when he further elucidated his statement by the assertion, that "You one constable in reply to his application had told him: 'You may think I am honestly assisting you in the day time, but be aware of what may be the nature of my assistance on the coming of night.'" Is not this state of feeling deplorable in the greatest degree? The people are not so guilty, as are those who instigate them to resist proceedings of all kinds, when the law is attempted to be enforced. Did these hon. members who talk about a civil force, as being sufficient, forget the opposition and display of force some eight or ten years since, to Mr. Sims, then under Sheriff of the whole Island, while in the execution of his duty? Though a very considerate and determined man, was he not driven away? and when on a second attempt, with the assistance of the civil force, whom, in his prudence, he concealed while he went forward to reconnoitre; what was the result? Why, that he found 150 men assembled to receive him, and 40 of them armed with muskets, &c., ready to proceed to any extent, in opposing the execution of the laws of the colony; thus tremes, in opposing the execution of the laws of the colony; thus he was obliged to give up the attempt. The proprietor at that time, forbore to press the Sheriff to do his duty, therefore the Government was not applied to for assistance. I am, Sir, said the hon. member, authorised to state, that the officer commanding the troops on the occasion now under discussion, was strictly ordered to withhold any interference unless the civil force were ordered to withhold any to protect them from violence, while forced back, and then only to protect them from violence, while executing their duty as civil officers. It answers the present purpose of certain hon. members, to make rank accusations against the character and veracity of fact; but any one who is deny that such has any foundation in fact; or the collection employed in the protection of Townships lands, or the collection of rents, immediately becomes a marked man. That is a sufficient crime in the eyes of the inhabitants of King's County, &c. His character must be blackened by the most unfounded and malignant assertions. The Executive well weighed the determination and were long in deliberating ere they came to the determination of sending the military to the disturbed district; yet, when the letter alluded to, as having been handed to them, by a member of this House, was read, and found to be couched in the most threatening and daring language of resistance to the laws, upon other course would they, have been justified in deciding upon, particularly when it is taken into consideration, the alarming state of that part of the country as there appeared property had been destroyed? Damage had been committed to one proprietor, to his knowledge amounting to not less than sixty or seventy

pounds, the proprietor being compelled to procure an extensive re-survey of the land from which the line stakes were removed by the factious and unlawful mob. The hon. member, (Mr. D. Maclean), had said these expenses should be paid out of the military chest, and not by the country. He (Mr. PALMER) wished indeed, it were the case, but that is an erroneous idea. Expenses incurred as these were, must be borne by the colony. The same hon. member had quoted the expenses incurred by the military during the disturbances in the Canadas. There a whole province was in open rebellion, which rendered it a question affecting the interest of the empire at large; not so, a single county of an insignificant Colony. In Canada, these members of assembly who caused the rebellion there, were not likely to put their hands in the Provincial revenue to defray the expenses of it. No, Sir, we must not take for our guide those who imbued their hands in the blood of their fellow-men, and were traitors and rebels to their own country. However, said the hon. member, it may answer the purpose of certain persons, who are so anxious to bring condemnation on the government with a view of escaping it themselves, while they alone are in reality the guilty parties. They it is, who for a series of years imposed on the credulity of the people representing amongst other things, that the government had not the power to send out the military, and thus brought them to a state of insubordination. Let the public judge when these proceedings come before them, whether the act was right or wrong. Yes, Sir, by that tribunal, let it be determined, whether the steps adopted by the government were not indispensable; whether, in fact, Lynch law is to be suffered to be carried out to effect, with impunity, as no doubt would have been the result of the adoption of a less stringent policy. Let us remember the prompt manner adopted by Sir John Harvey upon a much less urgent occasion than was this, in this same notorious King's County; and let it not be forgotten that he received the thanks of His Majesty. And he (Mr. PALMER) would fully venture to say, that the policy pursued by the Executive of this colony in this instance, if Her Majesty were appealed to, would readily obtain her approval.

Mr. WIGHTMAN expressed the regret he felt at the existence of a cause, whereby so much odium was affixed to King's County, as this deplorable event had given rise to. Very little doubt could be entertained that the alarming state of the district intimidated the Sheriff; yet he (Mr. Wightman), thought, some demonstration should have been attempted by the civil force, previous to the expedient of a military one being adopted; as, in his opinion, the former would have been found sufficient to subdue the assembled people, and to protect the peace. Thus, would this great expense to the country have been saved. That the charges made by those employed to convey the troops are enormous, he (Mr. Wightman) did not scruple to declare, (here the hon. member enumerated several of the charges,) to which he manifested strong objections, though it was far from his opinion to say, that it was not incumbent on the government to protect their officers in the execution of their lawful duties.

Mr. COOPER said, in allusion to what had fallen from the hon. member Mr. PALMER, relative to the administration of the laws, could not disguise his feeling, nor would he (Mr. COOPER) forbear stating that whatever the proprietors do, though it is well known they often act unlawfully in respect to the lands, they are always supported. But is similar support held out to those they injure? Much has been said about the Sheriff being alarmed, and afraid to do this and the other; but he was not afraid to go and turn out poor Haney and his family in the depth of winter, (laughter) and thus, as he (Mr. COOPER) thought was ready and willing to act unlawfully. But on the occasion of the matter now under consideration, he could not go, he was under great apprehension, and the military must be sent to act for him. It is plain to be seen, the law is wholly on one side.

The Hon. SPEAKER said, that the hon. member Mr. COOPER's expostions of what was constitutional law, was such an outrage on common sense, that he would not take up the time of the House, in refuting them by any arguments of his own. He (the Speaker) had on a former night, referred to sentiments put forth by the hon. member (Mr. COOPER), at a meeting at St. Peter's, and at Hay River, in 1837, in the shape of two resolutions, and a speech, the substance of which he had quoted from memory only; and as the hon. member had then called in question the correctness of his quotation, he (the hon. Speaker), would confront him with his own words, and condemn him out of his own mouth. The reference was somewhat long, but he trusted the committee would allow him to read it; because it had been eagerly swallowed by the dupes of King's County, as law, nicely spiced with religion to make it palatable.

*Resolved*, That the representations just read in the draught of a petition to his Majesty, and agreed to by this meeting, are truths which cannot be controverted, and exhibit a scene of fraud, deceit, and oppression, on the part of the grantees and land holders, against the inhabitants of this Island, which in the opinion of religious and reasonable men, is wickedness in the sight of God, derogatory to the honour and dignity of the King, and the British nation, and subversive of the sacred right of property; that longer to pay rent to such landlords under such circumstances, and after our repeated prayers for justice, is to foster oppression and reward crime.

*Resolved*, Therefore, that this meeting is moved by the sacred obligations of religion—by the honor and dignity of the King and the British nation—by the right of men to the fruits of their labour—by justice and equity (the basis of good government and civilized society), to preserve from the distress of such landlords, the fruits of our industry, raised for the maintenance of our families, and the dwellings we have erected for our homes, until his Majesty is informed of the situation and condition of his subjects in this Island, and his decision obtained according to the merits of the case.

Mr. COOPER would support the Resolutions, first and last, the word constitutional is rather undefined, but he knew this much of it, that it is constitutional to do every thing that is right, and unconstitutional to do every thing that is wrong; and when we speak of the constitution, it means amongst other matters, that the government have power to constitute a Court, and try all actions against the rights and peace of His Majesty's subjects, and to summons a jury of twelve men, who are to judge whether such actions are right or wrong. If the government are without such authority, they are without a constitution, and that petition, which is unanimously agreed to, points out that this Island has been and is yet without a Court to try the King's right to the forfeited lands; whenever the King's right is set up to lands, all law proceedings concerning individual rights are unconstitutional, until the King's right, which is the foundation of all others, is tried, and either established or set aside; and the want of that, tried, and either established or set aside, to deprive His Majesty's subjects of their liberty and property. The King has promised to defend the liberties and preserve the peace for his subjects, and therefore every act which is committed contrary to the peace and complaint being lodged with the proper Officers, an action is commenced at the suit of the King against the offenders, and punishment according to the offence; but if we are left without a court to try such offences, or if the government refused or neglected to appoint such courts, the same as has been done with a court of Escheats, it would be our duty and constitutional for us, in support of the honor and dignity of His Majesty's throne, to defend our lives, our liberty and property, to the utmost of our power; but I will put a case more in point to the present question. If any person or party were to take possession of the King's highway, and refuse to allow the King's subjects to pass, and were to demand a sum of money for that purpose, if we had no court or government to take cognizance of such an offence, it would be constitutional for us to force our way. If we waited to petition the King, nearly three thousand miles off, the King's right would be invaded in the mean time, which he ought not to suffer. It has become a by-word from the Bench to the meanest blockheads, that "the tenant's lease, which he signed, is a solemn obligation, which he is bound to forfeit," but I can inform you that no bargain or contract of any description, is lawful or binding, unless the parties had free will and authority to make such bargain, and that petition points out, that the one party had no authority to grant a lease, and the other party had no free

will, but necessity, to urge him to the acceptance. The King and his Ministers are misinformed, with regard to our situation, but the Colonial Government knew the truth. If the people at the West end of the Island are distressed, and deprived of their property, they ought to state their complaints to government, and pray the protection thereof; if they neglect this they are no rule to us. We made our complaint to the President and Council last year, and again to the Governor this year, and in both cases prayed the Government protection against the Landlord's distress, and a trial in behalf of the King for the forfeited lands; and if there is no law in the Colony to try such cases, nor protection in the Government, it is our duty, and constitutional for us to protect ourselves, but beware, not to become the aggressor. A Landlord is not authorized to distrain for Rent without the Sheriff or some of his Officers, and they are sworn to maintain and defend the rights of the King. It is therefore your duty to declare upon your oath, that the lands are forfeited to the King, and the claimant has no right to the property, the responsibility of the distress is upon the Officers of Government, and prevent bloodshed; I am aware that it is a difficult case for Government to settle where so many have been guilty; but the inhabitants ought not to suffer for the guilt of others, and government will see the necessity to interfere and institute a suitable Court to afford redress for such grievances.

There, sir, resumed the hon. Speaker, is constitutional law for you. The people of King's county had also been told that the government date not, nor could send the troops from Charlottetown; indeed he had heard members of this house express the same strange opinion. Great was their consternation when a detachment of the rifles appeared amongst them. But what can we expect from the people when their representatives betray such gross ignorance, and endeavour to delude the people by such impositions? But mark, sir, the mischievous and dangerous tendency of such doctrines, as are set forth by the hon. member, when he tells the people that it is unlawful for the landholders to demand rent, and that the people are bound on their oaths so to declare it. Is not this, sir, a covert and wicked attempt to influence the minds of the juries, who may have the life of a fellow creature in their hands. Can the hon. member be sincere in his opinions, I would rather in charity suppose him demagogue. If it arises from ignorance it is not a sufficient excuse, for no individual should impose himself on his constituents as being capable of making laws for their governance, unless he is acquainted with, and understands the constitution of his country. I fear the hon. member has much to answer for in this respect. For more fallacious or delusive opinions I have never met with, than those propagated by the hon. member; and are not sir, I would ask, the effects of these opinions apparent at this moment in King's county? In other parts of the colony improvements are steadily progressing, and here and there a person of some capital is selecting a home for himself and his family, and conferring a benefit on himself and all around him. Not so in King's county, (Georgetown and the district around excepted,) it remains dormant, and if the hon. member's advice is much longer followed we will become a prey to a lawless population. I do not wonder, sir, at any attempt that may be made by the hon. member for King's county, to censure the Executive government of this Island, for supporting the laws in opposition to his opinions. But sir, I should be greatly surprised if he be sustained by any majority of the present house in so doing. This question of all others ought not to be viewed as a party one, nothing has been adduced to prove that the least attempt has been made to infringe the rights of the people. It is the paramount duty of all governments to protect the public peace, and to uphold the supremacy of the laws, however unpalatable they may be to one part of the community. And let me tell the hon. member for King's county, that the present Executive government of this Island will not be deterred from a firm and constitutional discharge of those duties which they owe to their Sovereign and their country, by the fear of a vote of censure of the hon. member from King's county, (Mr. COOPER) and his tail. The hon. member tells us that he is the guardian of the interests and welfare of the people of King's county.—Never did school-boy listen with greater avidity or attention to the miraculous adventures of that celebrated tar, "Snoddad the Sailor," than the infatuated supporters of the hon. member for King's county, have done to his never ending yarns about "escheat," "land settlement," "public question," and other equally indefinite matters, which his fertile imagination has enabled him to present to them, in at least one thousand and one different shapes. Last year, sir, finding his influence on the wane, and his popularity becoming "beautifully less," he threatened to leave us, and I believe built or bought a vessel for that purpose, but unfortunately he has not yet been able to obtain a register for her; and I have to regret, sir, that I have not sufficient influence with the board of Customs to assist in setting the hon. member afloat. He (the Speaker), thought that the experience of the hon. member as an arch agitator, might be turned to account in the Oregon territory, or some other part of the world, where the right to the soil was not clearly established, and would advise him to shape his course to that happy land. He feared he had encroached on the time of the committee, and would therefore only further state, that the expenses of sending the troops have been paid, and he felt assured that the house would indemnify the Executive, who had no other object in view than the welfare of the colony, in the line of conduct they pursued. It was certainly satisfactory to know that the measure had produced a most beneficial effect. He hoped therefore that the house would not entertain any resolution tending to censure the government. He certainly regretted that the sum of forty pounds, ordered to be deducted from the charge made, should have been afterwards paid, as he considered the whole of the charges to be very exorbitant, but the documents before you will explain, and show that it was done without the sanction of the government and council, and that the responsibility rests with Colonel Lane and Mr. Lamont, by whom the accounts were certified.

Mr. D. M-LEAN said, in regard to the necessity of sending the military, he submitted the Executive had proved there was none whatever; M-Guire's evidence if it be good for any thing, establishes that he, with a single musket, drove off two hundred men; therefore if the people were such poltroons, where was the necessity of soldiers? The terror of the Sheriff put him (Mr. D. M-LEAN) in mind of a circumstance that occurred in France a few years since—"A gentleman in a state of great alarm, rushed into a room one fine moonlight evening, and declared that coming through a grave yard, he had just seen the devil in the shape of an ass. Oh! exclaimed his hearers, the fellow has been frightened at his own shadow." But in point of fact, said the hon. member, the hospitable manner in which the military were received, sufficiently proves the expedition to have been altogether uncalculated for; surely no hon. member can suppose that had the people really contemplated resistance, the small force sent could have suppressed them. In America, the tale of blood has had but one result from Canada to Florida, and that is, that every tree, stump and rock, can be converted into natural fortresses, from whence the inhabitants of the forest may slaughter their invaders almost with impunity. The expedition having been unnecessary and a violation of our constitutional rights, he trusted the House would reject the accounts, and let the authorities apply to the proper quarter; the Imperial Treasury for payment.

Mr. RAE said, it would appear from what had fallen from the hon. speaker, that because the expense of this expedition was paid, we, the representatives of those who have to bear the burden, cannot help ourselves. But with all due deference to those opinions, he (Mr. RAE) thought it was our duty to see that the public purse was not abused by unnecessary handlings; it was a matter for our consideration, and should have first obtained our sanction; he (Mr. RAE) did not therefore approve of what he did not think right. The hon. member then expressed himself as not being sorry to see an occasional administration, by the hon. the Speaker, of a little *venegar* to the hon. member for King's county, Mr. COOPER; inasmuch as the latter hon. member never appeared to be satisfied with any thing, be it what it may, that was not beaten out on his own anvil. The hon. member then moved an amendment, which was afterwards withdrawn.