

tion of a Bill for the amendment or alteration of the present mode of the Impost Revenue, their intention should have been intimated through the medium of His Excellency's Speech, in which there was room enough for such intimation, and more; for, God knows, it was stated and made enough. Even under the old regime, which the party at present in power so unparagonably and virulently assailed, until they had established their own rate upon its overthrow, nothing so unconstitutional, nothing so directly leading to a subversion of the rights and privileges of His House, had ever proceeded from the Head of the Government, as the Message which has just been delivered to this House by the Hon. Col. Secretary. When the Government proposed the introduction of any measure of public importance, it had always, hitherto, been the practice to intimate the intention, by means of the Speech. What new light has arisen here, or has proceeded from the other side of the Atlantic, by which His Excellency and his advisers, have thought proper to be guided in their departure from the old, established, and constitutional mode of calling the attention of this House to any subject, concerning which they wished to induce legislation, I know not; yet I am at liberty to presume to conjecture the reasons which may have caused them to resort to this mode, the adoption of the unprecedented and unconstitutional mode which he has pursued on the present occasion. It seems to me that the Hon. the Colonial Secretary and other members of the Government, having seats in this House, may have advised His Excellency to the course which he has pursued, in order that, should they be disappointed in their expectation of inducing the House to take up the subject in such a way as they desire they should, they may be able seemingly, to preserve their credit, and escape the shame of a defeat, by having it in their power in a manner to disavow any responsibility concerning the measure; and, with apparent unconcern, to say they had taken up the subject merely in acquiescence, with a wish of His Excellency conveyed to the House by a Message; but it was not a measure of the introduction of which they had seriously contemplated and resolved upon, before the opening of the session, or, otherwise, it would have been noticed in the speech. Such an unconstitutional assumption of absolute authority, on the part of a Governor, would not, even in the days when the Executive Council were merely the nominees of the Crown, have been so surprising as it is now, now when we are told that the Government—the Executive Council—are, through the operation of the principles of Responsible Government, chosen and constituted by the people themselves. Of their being so constituted, this proceeding of His Excellency gives however, only a negative proof; for, if they really represented the people in the Executive Council, they would oppose any unconstitutional act of the Lieutenant Governor, which, like the Message which has just been delivered by the Colonial Secretary, would be a direct violation of the privileges of the people's representatives. Their having acquiesced in His Excellency's presumption of the propriety of sending this Message is an undeniable proof that, although they may not, in all respects, be the submissive servants of His Excellency, they certainly are not the faithful servants or representatives of the people in the Executive Council. The tendency of the present system of government, as it is made to work by those now in power, is, certainly, not towards responsibility, but towards freedom, not towards freedom, but rather towards absolutism.

Hon. R. MOORE.—The hon. and learned member who had just sat down, had certainly afforded the House much amusement by the excellent display of indignation, zeal, and excitement, real or pretended, with which he had taken upon him to declaim against an unconstitutional assumption of power, as he styled it; and of patriotic determination to defend the legislative rights and privileges of the House, when neither invaded, nor threatened with invasion, from any quarter. Whilst he acknowledged himself assailed by the highly excited and determined manner, in which the hon. and learned member had repelled a shadow, conjured up by himself, he could not but, at the same time, confess the concern, the apprehension, which he felt, the very energetic manner, in which he had acquitted himself of his assumed part, should prove too much for his natural powers of endurance; and that to-morrow, he might find himself unfit for legislative duty. The object the hon. and learned member seemed to have in view was to coax the House into a quarrel, and to create a riot about nothing. If such really was his object, he would surely be disappointed. The majority of the House had quite as much regard for their legislative rights and privileges, as the hon. and learned member could possibly have, but they saw no occasion to take up arms in their defence, so long as they were satisfied that they were perfectly secure. The necessity for the House's taking into consideration the system for the collection of the Impost Revenue which has hitherto been in operation, has been very properly brought under the notice of the House, by His Excellency's Message; and he had no doubt it would be received and responded to in such a manner as would, not only be expressive of due respect for Her Majesty's Representative, but afford a proof that neither the Government nor the majority of the House were afraid to take up questions, however ticklish, and to prosecute them on such issues as would prove their regard for their general good.

Hon. Col. TREASURER.—Notwithstanding all that had been uttered, by the hon. and learned member for Georgetown, with so much vehemence and intemperance of declamation, against the means which had been adopted, by His Excellency, for bringing under the consideration of the House the present mode of collecting the Impost Revenue, he (Hon. Col. Treasurer) thought it a very proper one. It was, in fact, a carrying out of one of the principles of Responsible Government, which required that notice should be given, to the Legislature, of any new measure which the Government were of opinion ought to be introduced and passed; or that by timely intimation their attention should be particularly called to the consideration of any established measure, the operation of which had not been altogether so satisfactory, or quite so conducive to the general good, as it had been intended to be; and, to him, it certainly appeared to be a matter of no moment whatever, whether such notice, or such intimation should be made by "the Speech," or by Message; since, in either way, the governing principle was observed; and there was not, and could not be, in a Message, so conceived and so expressed as that which the Hon. Col. Secretary had just delivered from His Excellency, any thing more dictatorial and authoritative, than there would have been in conveying to the House, or the Legislature, by means of "the Speech," what is merely an intimation, on the part of His Excellency, of the evils, affecting public credit, and the integrity of the Government, which have been found to arise from the operation of an existing system, and a perfectly respectful expression of a trust,—as far as possible from having any semblance of a command,—that the House will concur with him, in regarding a subject, vitally affecting the honor and interest of the Colony, as deserving their most serious consideration. From his position both in the Treasury and in the Government, than he no one could be more fully aware of the evils arising from the system at present in operation for the collection of the Impost Revenue; and of the difficulties which might attend the progress of any legislative measure which might be devised, with a view to the remedying of the defects of the system, in such a way as, whilst it would effectually provide for and secure the payment of impost duties to meet the exigencies of the Government, would, at the same time, afford due encouragement to legitimate enterprise. If he might have his own way, he would entirely do away with the present system of collecting, and securing payment of the Impost Revenue; and all duties chargeable and payable upon imported goods, should, as in most other countries, be paid at once. In Halifax such was the practice; and payment of the duties was not made, or received in Notes, but in specie [Hon. J. WRIGHTMAN.—There, they have bonded warehouses.] Yes; and so ought there to be here, in Charlotetown; and securities for the payment of duties upon imported goods, should be taken only on account of those which were landed at the outports. The hon. and learned member for Georgetown had said, that the Government had been afraid to assume the responsibility of a measure for the alteration of the present system of collecting and securing the payment of Impost Duties, and had, therefore, sought to shelter themselves beneath a Message from His Excellency; but he could tell that hon. and learned member, that he, (the Hon. Col. Treasurer) for one, was not afraid, as a member of the Government, to assume his full share of any responsibility which could attach to the introduction of such a measure, and neither did he think any one of the Government in the House was so. The present was not, perhaps, the fit time for him to enter into any particular explanations of his views either concerning the evils attending upon the operation of the present system, or of the alterations therein, by which he conceived they might be remedied; but he would be prepared to state them when a proper opportunity for doing so should arrive.

Hon. Col. SECRETARY.—The hon. and learned member for Georgetown, not satisfied with giving vent to the indignation, with which he would have it to be believed, His Excellency's Message has filled him, has taken occasion not only to boast of his independence, but to threaten his constituents at Georgetown with something like a determination, on his part, never

again to solicit the honor of representing them in the Assembly. Alas! for the people of Georgetown! What will become of them, if they should be so deserted? Who then, with guardian care, will watch over them, and zealously seek to advance all their interests? Their situation if so forsaken, will be pitiable indeed. In all the exuberance of a self-congratulating and boastful spirit, the hon. and learned member has told us, that he covets not office, and looks with indifference, if not with positive contempt, upon a paltry salary of £300 or £400 a year; intending, thereby, no doubt, insidiously to cast disparaging reflections upon some who are in the receipt of such official salaries. [Mr. H. HAVILAND.—Whoever thinks the cap will fit him, is at liberty to put it on.] The hon. and learned member was however the very last person who could in any way feel himself at liberty to sneer at, or reproach any with love of office or its emoluments, after his having so long held and so unwillingly relinquished an office, certainly one of the most paltry in the Colony, and besides an almost perfect sinecure, with the paltry salary of £100 a year attached to it. If he intends his observations to apply to me, I beg leave to tell him, I can live quite as independently without office as he can; yes, and more independently. There was indeed but little independence manifested by him; the other day, in his eagerness to obtain so paltry an office, as a petty agency. [Mr. H. HAVILAND.—I never sought it; I never applied for it.] That may be; but if a friend of the hon. member had made an application for it, on his behalf, it was much the same as if he had applied for it himself. The hon. and learned member has argued that every proposed measure of the Government should be in the Lieut. Governor's Speech. Why, if such a practice as that were adopted, the Speech might be made almost as long as that of the President of the United States. Measures in contemplation may certainly be occasionally omitted without any impropriety, or the least abandonment of established principles; and their omission supplied by Message, or Messages, in due season; and, to the full, quite as courteously as if they had been noticed in the Speech. I have already said, and I say again that I am most willing to sustain my full share of the responsibility which attaches to the intimation made to the House by the Message. The hon. and learned member has said that we (meaning the members of the Government) are afraid to bring forward any measure for changing the present system of collecting and securing the payment of impost duties; but I take leave to tell him that we are not so, and that we have never yet been afraid to introduce any measure which we were convinced was requisite either for the maintenance or the furtherance of the best interests of the country. The hon. and learned member has, most indecorously, called His Excellency a stranger, in his warmth, forgetting that the Lieut. Governor is as essentially a part of the Legislature as we ourselves are. Persons are always most apt to be betrayed into indecorum of language when they find themselves unfortunately engaged in the serious maintenance of some proposition so absurd, that they cannot, by any course of calm and just reasoning, sustain it; and, in such a position, the hon. and learned member, finds himself, as the use of language so unjustifiable as that which he has applied to His Excellency, fully proves.

Mr. H. HAVILAND, on his again rising to speak, was reminded that, as there was no motion before the House, he was out of order. The hon. and learned member then said, I will make a motion. I move that the Message be not received.

Hon. the SPEAKER, looking around the House, observed, the motion is not seconded.

Hon. the COL. TREASURER.—Well, that the hon. and learned member may be afforded an opportunity to pour out the remainder of his indignation, I second the motion.

Mr. H. HAVILAND.—I do not return the fire of small batteries; I think it sufficient to answer great ones. If the Executive Council are under the immediate control of the Lieut. Governor, and he under the control of the Secretary of State for the Colonies at home, as, from time to time, it is made pretty evident we are; what is called our local Government is a mere automation, set in motion, by the power of strangers; it exists only in name, and in reality we have no government of our own. What the hon. member (Hon. Col. Secretary) has been pleased to say ironically concerning a possible severance of the political ties, by which I am at present bound to the constituency of Georgetown, I regard not. I allow it to pass for what it is worth; and that is little. But what I said before I repeat: as a member of this House, I am as thoroughly independent as any gentleman who has the honor of a seat in it; and I again say, I care not whether, after the approaching dissolution of it, I ever again raise my voice here, either as a representative of Georgetown, or of any other constituency in the Island. And, notwithstanding the high-toned rebuke, which the Hon. Col. Secretary has assumed to himself the right to bestow upon me, for my freedom of speech concerning His Excellency's Message, I repeat, the Message is unconstitutional and indelicate; and directly trenches upon our privileges, as the representatives of the people. It is an undue meddling and interference with a matter the arrangement of which, properly and wholly belongs to us at all times. Any and every portion of the public revenue, we should be left perfectly at liberty to collect, secure and expend as we may think best. With respect to the agency, concerning which the Colonial Secretary has thought it fit to taunt me, I say that if he asserts that I applied for it, he asserts what is not correct. I tell him, to his teeth, that I never applied for it; and that, whatever agency I hold, and business I transact, I owe it to my personal character that the one has been conferred upon me, and the other entrusted to my management. I have no wish to sound my own trumpet; but, thanks be to goodness, I can tell the Hon. Colonial Secretary and others, whatever they may say, that I have never solicited, by a single line of writing, or otherwise, any agency, emolument, or business, and that all that has fallen to me, I owe to nothing but my personal reputation. With respect to the change in the system of collecting the Impost Revenue, which the Government have in contemplation, they all say that the duties should be paid at once, as in Nova Scotia. [Hon. Col. Secretary.—I did not say so.] The Hon. Col. Secretary did; and one should answer for all; if not, the Government was a queer one. For the present, however, let that pass. The necessity of making an alteration in the system of collecting the Impost Revenue, which they pretend to have discovered, is not, however, so much attributable to any original defects in that system, as it is owing to their own wasteful and lavish expenditure, and their unwarrantable appropriations of Revenue; by which extravagance, notwithstanding the very large amount of the Revenue, they have destroyed public credit, and brought themselves to the very verge of bankruptcy; and very glad are they at being able to persuade themselves, that, by laying their present pecuniary difficulties and embarrassments to the charge of the unfortunate working of the system for the collection of the Impost Revenue, they may probably ward off some of the public indignation which the consideration of their beggarly condition has aroused throughout the country.

Hon. Col. TREASURER rose to explain. I said that if I might have my own way, that I would cause the impost duties to be paid at once; and so prevent persons from trading in public monies.

Hon. Col. SECRETARY.—The fate of the hon. and learned member's motion will best explain the opinion, respecting the propriety of His Excellency's Message, entertained by the House. I shall, therefore, say nothing more concerning it in that light. The hon. and learned member has said that the fault is not in the system, but rather in the improvidence of the Government. I, on the contrary, say it is in the system, and the remedy can be found only in a reformation of the system. The system gives a credit of from 3 to 15 months, to general merchants and other importers. How then, I ask, when so long a credit is given, can the Government, can the Treasury be prepared to meet the demands made upon them, on account of the public service. If the public service cost nothing, or if it involved but little or no expenditure of money, then the existence of such a system of collecting impost duties, as that which is now in operation, might be tolerated; but, when it is found that the supplies for the public service, which should be duly derived from the impost duties, came into the Treasury so slowly and inopportunistly, in consequence of the long credits given for the payment of them, that the exigencies of the public service cannot be duly provided for; it is surely high time to think of amending the system, either by shortening the periods of credit, given to importers, for the payment of duties; or, perhaps, in some instances, by doing away with the credit system altogether. Vague and indefinite charges of lavish and wasteful expenditure, such as the hon. and learned member has preferred against the

Government, he himself must be very well aware prove nothing, and still less effective is the use of coarse appellations, except in so far as they serve to damage the arguments, and the oratory of him who has recourse to them. If, however, when the public accounts shall be before the House, the hon. and learned member shall prefer any specific charges of lavish or unwarrantable expenditure, against the Government, I trust we shall be found well prepared to repel and disprove them. Until then, his accusations may well be allowed to rest without further notice, on the part of any member of the Government. With respect to the land agency of the hon. and learned member, I do not know that I said he applied for it; and he says he did not; but still that does not prevent my thinking that a friend of his who may have made the application for him, of which, as it proved successful, I doubt not he was very glad; and I beg leave to congratulate him upon its success; although, if some speak truly concerning their land agencies, they are not quite so far as they appear to be. Without any further observations from me, the House will decide, on the hon. and learned member's motion, to what degree of respect His Excellency's Message is entitled.

Hon. F. LONGWORTH.—I cannot support the motion of the hon. and learned member for Georgetown. All Messages of the Lieut. Governor should be received with respect; but I think that, under Responsible Government, nothing in reality affecting, or even only seemingly affecting, the independent legislative action or deliberations of this House, ought to proceed from His Excellency. If His Excellency and his Government thought proper, last year, to sanction the measure now in operation for the collecting of the Impost Revenue, may it not be asked, why are they not prepared to sanction it now? and, what peculiarity of circumstances has arisen, except of their own creating, to demand or make necessary any alteration in the system now? At all events, the necessity which it is supposed there exists for its alteration or amendment, should not, in my opinion, have been intimated in the way in which it has been suggested to the House. If it was thought necessary to bring the subject immediately under our notice, it should, I think, have been recommended to our consideration in "the Speech;" but I am sorry that the hon. and learned member for Georgetown has proceeded so far as to move the rejection of His Excellency's Message concerning it. That it is the duty of the House to receive respectfully every Message of the Lieut. Governor, has been urged with perfect propriety; but with what propriety it can be said, as it has been, by the Hon. Colonial Secretary, that we may be accounted strangers, rather than His Excellency, I am wholly at a loss to imagine. [Hon. Col. Secretary.—I said nothing of the kind.] Well, then, I must have quite misunderstood him. Last year, when the Revenue Bill was under our consideration, the House, on this side, wished for the establishment of a bonded warehouse, in which all imported liquors might be deposited, to be taken out when and as sold, on direct payment of the duties thereon; and all the opposition made to the proposal proceeded, I believe, from the other side.

Hon. J. WRIGHTMAN.—The remarks made by the hon. and learned member for Georgetown, and the motion which he has made, relative to the Lieut. Governor's Message, seem to me, to have been conceived in a spirit of derision, and to have been made with the intention of throwing contempt upon His Excellency. No instance is on record, I believe, of such an act of discourtesy, by a Legislative body, towards a representative of Majesty, as that which has just been proposed by that hon. and learned member; and all indeed it became him, for certainly he ought to have known better. His Excellency's Message does not in any way border upon, or savour of dictation; it merely points out, and invites our attention to a necessity, of the existence of which every member of this House, who is as well acquainted with the financial details of the Colony as he ought to be, cannot but be fully aware. All know that, by the Revenue Act of last year, when the duties, to be paid by any importer, amounts to more than £100, credit for the payment thereof is given for 12 months, and with a further indulgence of 3 months, the credit amounts to 15 months. Now, in consequence of this credit and indulgence, it unfortunately happened that when money for the Road service was required, it could not be obtained; and the Bank would not accommodate the Government with a loan of £1000, even on the best security which could be given. Such a loan however would not have been required, had the duties been made payable at the end of 6 months. If so, at the end of that time, moneys sufficient would have been collected to meet all demands, both on account of the road service and of the free schools. The emergencies of the Government, in consequence, certainly became pressing and embarrassing; but they were very far from having brought it to the verge of bankruptcy or beggary, the state in which the hon. and learned member for Georgetown has said they were in. The embarrassment experienced by the Government was not occasioned, either by lavish expenditure, or unwarrantable appropriations, such as they have been, or vaguely charged upon, by that hon. and learned member, but were solely attributable to the long credit given for the larger amounts of duties. From their temporary embarrassment, the Bank however might easily have relieved them; and that too without suffering any loss, but securing an advantage. Still, however, as desirous to encourage legitimate commercial enterprise, I am an advocate for credits of due length for the payment of impost duties; and, unless our mode of doing business be completely revolutionized through the Island, long credits must be given. If a man imports goods to a considerable amount, it is very well known that he cannot, according to our present mode of doing business, raise sufficient by sales thereof in 3 months, to pay the duties at the expiration of that period. His principal payments, for the goods sold, will, in all probability, be in produce; which he will have to ship; and before he can realize money in return, he will have to wait some, perhaps a considerable time. The subject is one which imperatively demands the most serious consideration of this House, for the vital interests of the country are involved therein. Such a Message as that of His Excellency was certainly called for; and ought to be respectfully received by the House, even although, as we are in Session, it may appear to some that the intimation which it contains would have been better given, had it been conveyed to us, at another time, and in another way. I cannot agree with the hon. the Treasurer, that all Impost duties should be made payable immediately. Should they be made so, the effect would be a circumscribing of the legitimate trade and commerce of the country. Credits of 3, 6 and 9 months, according to the different amounts of duties to be paid, might, I think, be very advantageously given; but, at the same time, I think, we cannot guard too carefully against making any such provisions in the Revenue Act, as afford encouragement and facilities to dying and dishonest adventurers, to come in and inure or ruin the fair and settled trader; and also, perhaps, a certain public institution, concerning the principles which appear to govern some of their transactions, it might not be quite becoming in me now to speak; but of which, an approaching meeting may very probably call forth some surprising disclosures. As for bonded warehouses, it is quite clear that only one could be provided, and that in Charlotetown; and that, therefore, as it could not afford requisite accommodation to all the country, its erection would be objectionable on the most evident principles of justice; but the present system of collecting and securing the impost duties may, I think, be greatly and most advantageously amended, by limiting the credit periods to 3, 6 and 9 months.

Mr. H. HAVILAND.—It would appear, on this occasion, as if I had no friends, either on my right hand or on my left, still, I regret not having made the motion, from the supporting of which my old political friends appear to shrink; and, although on a division thereon I may stand alone, I shall not be ashamed of my position. It will, at least, be evident that I am not actuated by party motives. I say we have not Responsible Government when we have not the benefits which such a system should confer upon us. If we had real Responsible Government would the Lieut. Governor conceive himself privileged to send, or would the Colonial Secretary, the leader of the Government in this House, consent to bring down such a message as that now under our consideration? No; and that the country is mocked by a name, and deceived by a shadow, put forth instead of a reality, is clearly proved by the fact that the Lieutenant Governor has conceived himself at liberty to send, and the Colonial Secretary—I beg his pardon, the Premier, for so, I believe, he loves to be called—has not hesitated to present to this House, the representatives of the people, a message which directly strikes at

their chief fundamental privilege. So obvious, indeed, is the unconstitutional character of the message, that a member of the Government (the Hon. Mr. Wrightman), has admitted its impropriety, by murmuring to the regularity of sending it to the House whilst actually in session. Of the correctness of my own view of the message, I, however, needed not his testimony to be convinced; but I am glad of it, because it shews that there is a want of unanimity in the Government, and pleasingly recalls to my mind the declaration, that a house divided against itself cannot stand, but must fall. The same hon. member has said that I have treated His Excellency's message with derision. I say I have not; for I consider it to be far too serious a matter for laughter. I say that it is a dictatorial and unconstitutional message, and as positively a breach of the privileges of the House. In this there is little food for merriment; for, if we submit to it, our occupation will soon be gone, and we shall shortly become, as has been said of another chamber, little better than a Court of Record; and our legislative functions be narrowed down and confined to the mere enrolling of the decrees of the Government. If once we allow the small end of the wedge to be introduced, it will not be found a very difficult business to drive it so effectually home as thereby to effect the complete disruption of our constitution. We should then soon find ourselves completely under the insolent domination of a selfish oligarchy. Would to God that we had here the Government of Canada! There freedom, there responsibility to the people, appear to be fully understood. There it has been decreed that no one having any connection with the collecting of the revenue shall have a seat in the House of Assembly; and, by the exclusion of impost collectors and other office-holders therefrom, and by denying, to revenue officers, even the privilege of voting at the elections of parliamentary representatives of the people, the Canadian House of Assembly have secured to themselves perfect legislative freedom; and the consequences, it cannot be doubted, will be acts of pure and unselfish legislation for the general good of the people. I certainly do not wish to treat His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, Her Majesty's representative, with any disrespect; but I will not forego my right of freedom of speech concerning any act tending to a breach of our privileges, whenever it may proceed. The act, the message in question has, I believe, been concocted at the Council Board; but, even did I look upon it as wholly and directly proceeding from His Excellency alone, that consideration would not make me in any way more guarded in my condemnation of it; and yet no one can be actuated by stronger feelings of loyalty than myself. If, on a division, I stand alone, I shall not be ashamed of my position.

Mr. COOPER.—What I think ought to be taken notice of is, that, under such circumstances as those to which the Message alludes, an individual to whom a Treasury Warrant may have been granted, wants the money which it ought to represent; but, owing to a deficiency in the Treasury, caused by the long credit system in operation with respect to the payment of impost duties, he cannot procure cash for his warrant at the Treasury; and, in order that he may procure money for the relief of his immediate necessities, he is obliged to part with it, at a large discount, for cash. Now some measures ought to be taken, whereby security could be afforded that Treasury Warrants, on presentation at the Treasury, would be paid at once. There was a time when they, to whom Treasury Warrants were granted, were generally satisfied to have them endorsed for interest; but, owing to the great depression of trade and the scarcity of money, that was not the case last summer; when individuals having contracts were obliged, in order to procure money to pay their workmen, to part with their warrants, at heavy rates of discount, to merchants having duties to pay into the Treasury; and who, thereby, obtained an unfair advantage over bona fide public creditors; as the warrants so procured by them, at discount, were received, in payment of duties, for their full facial value at the Treasury. I hope this will be an efficient warning to cause such arrangements to be made as shall cause Treasury Warrants, in future, to be paid in due rotation.

Mr. YEO.—I think that shortening the time allowed for the payment of impost duties would not be a public benefit; it would only be a throwing of stumbling-blocks in way of legitimate traders. But, at the same time, I think that the manner in which irregular and unsettled traders, from the facilities afforded them by the present system, fill different parts of the country with their wares, and carry off nearly all the ready money, is a very serious evil, and one for which it is our duty to provide an immediate remedy, if possible. As for bonded warehouses, it is impossible to establish them at all the out-ports; for the payment of the numerous officers, who would be required to superintend them, would be an evil almost as serious as any arising from the system which we are now called upon to amend. I do not speak as one concerned on his own account; for I do not care about importing any more goods myself; but I see very clearly that some improvement is required, either as regards the mode of collecting the impost revenue, or as respects the manner in which it is expended. Contractors for public works, schoolmasters and others, who want their money and cannot afford to lie out of it, should not be made to suffer for the benefit of others, by the continuance of an ill-working system for the collecting and securing of impost duties. Bonded warehouses would be too expensive; but I think the system might be improved by making all small amounts of duties payable at once; and by giving credit, for a reasonable length of time, for the payment of duties, amounting to such sums as £300 or £400; and strictly providing that when they became due, they should be paid at once. Amendment, I am convinced, is certainly much needed; although in what way it is to be obtained I cannot tell. Than the financial results of the working of the present system, hardly any could be worse. Such matters may be in a very bad state in Cape Breton; but they can scarcely be worse than they are here.

Hon. Col. SECRETARY.—It appears to me that the hon. member has been speaking against himself. The bringing in of a large assortment of goods by irregular or non-resident traders, and there being granted to them long credits for the payment of the duties, affords them opportunities to sell off their goods at comparatively low prices; and, with the moneys thus realized, to leave the Island, and return again with new supplies, to be quickly sold off again, in the same way, whilst the duties upon both importations remain unpaid, to the injury of resident established traders; and, in the end, perhaps, either the Government or their securities are defrauded of the amounts of impost duties from them. But, perhaps, this is wandering from the question. To return to it: the hon. and learned member for Georgetown has said that the communication made by the Message before us, ought to have been made in the Speech. Now, by reading a passage from a constitutional lawyer,—from May, on the law, privileges, proceedings and usage of Parliament—an authority to which, perhaps, that hon. and learned member will modestly defer.—I will show him that Messages, such as that of which he has, contrary to parliamentary usage, moved the rejection, ought to be regarded as more supplements to "the Speech." The hon. gentleman then read as follows:—

"The subjects of such messages are usually communications in regard to important public events which require the attention of Parliament; the prerogatives or property of the Crown; provision for the royal family; and various matters in which the Executive seeks for pecuniary aid from Parliament. They may be regarded, in short, as additions to the royal speech, at the commencement of the Session, submitting other matters to the deliberation of Parliament, besides the causes of summons previously declared. This analogy between a royal speech, and a message under the sign manual, is supported by several circumstances common to both. A speech is delivered to both Houses, and every message under the sign manual should also be sent, if practicable, to both Houses; but, when they are accompanied by original papers, they have occasionally been sent to one House only."

Mr. H. HAVILAND.—As the subject of the Message is in no way adverted to in "the Speech," the Message can hardly be accounted a supplement, or an addition to it; and neither can the Message be justly regarded as submitting another matter to our deliberation, besides those for the due consideration of which we have been called together; for the collection of the revenue is our chief object in every Session. Although I find no support amongst hon. members with whom I almost uniformly act, I still adhere to the opinions which I have expressed concerning the Message; but it must be very clear, standing alone as I do, with respect to my motion, that I have not made it to serve any party purpose.

(To be concluded.)
R. B. IAYNE, Reporter.