

premature for Her Majesty to pledge herself to sanction the various changes which its establishment would involve, until the Legislature should have considered the case of those public officers whose position would be affected by it, and the provision which ought to be made for existing interests. It appears to me essential that the necessary arrangements for this purpose should be effected beforehand, and should not be left, after the pledge has been given and cannot be recalled, to chance, and to the opinions which may prevail in a Body so fluctuating as a popular Legislature. For with all confidence in the intentions of the present Assembly, it is impossible to anticipate, on such subjects, the views which may influence a new one."

With that before him, continued the hon. member, could His Excellency consider himself at liberty to choose his course of action? Most assuredly he could not; he had therefore justly determined that he was completely tied down; by that very paragraph, to require from the House a compliance with its terms, as a necessary preliminary to a future consideration, by the Imperial Government, respecting the introduction of Responsible Government into the Colony. With regard to himself, continued the hon. member, he had in the late House advocated the introduction of that system of Responsible Government which he deemed most suitable to the Colony, but he was free to admit that he found at the Election that the opinions of the people, with respect to that question, had undergone a very material change; and that it became his duty as a Representative of the People, not to make a factious or a useless opposition to the views of the majority of the House, if found favourable to the introduction of the Departmental system; and, in order that he might not be fettered by his obligations as a member of the Executive Council, he had waited upon the Lieut. Governor at an early day after the meeting of the House, to explain to His Excellency the position in which he then stood, and that he considered himself as bound either to support the Departmental system of Responsible Government or to resign his seat. At this interview, he (Mr. T.) was satisfied to learn that he was at perfect liberty to vote independently on the question, only following the course of proceeding in the late House by separating the question of the Civil List, and addressing the Imperial Government for the introduction of the system as looked for by the majority of the present House, which course he still considered as the most prudent one, and by which, he had no doubt, the object would be gained, when the Imperial Government became aware that it was the desire of so very large a majority of the House. He had certainly not been prepared to vote a want of confidence in the Executive; because, he being a member of it, that would have been tantamount to an expression of want of confidence in himself. But, as he had already said on this and on a former occasion, he was prepared to support measures for the introduction of Responsible Government whenever the subject should be brought before the House upon its own merits with a due regard to parliamentary usages. He was certainly, however, far from being prepared to go along with the majority in the course which they then purposed to pursue. Some hon. members proclaimed their disregard for their £30 pay for the Session, as a convincing proof of their independence and the purity of their motives. But, however praiseworthy a disregard of self under such circumstances might be, he could not think it either prudent or just, on public considerations, to deprive the country of a Revenue for twelve months. To do so would be to ruin the Colony. Now if after three years of almost unprecedented embarrassment and distress in the Island, occasioned mainly by the failure of three successive crops, and after thousands and thousands of pounds had been sent out of the Island to procure food for an almost starving population, they were to withhold a Revenue, the consequences would be highly disastrous to the general interests of the people. The absence of a Revenue Law might, it was true, prove, in the first place, beneficial to the merchants; but it could no fail to prove injurious to the Colony at large; and how, he would inquire, would they (next year) be able to provide for the payment of two years or double the amount of salaries and other expenditure, out of an empty chest? If the Colony were prosperous, if they were even out of debt, the course proposed would not be so objectionable as, under existing public circumstances, it certainly was. But, when it was remembered that the Colony was burdened with a debt amounting to upwards of £30,000 in Treasury Warrants alone, and for which the colony was paying at least £1800 interest annually, hon. members ought to be convinced that the difficulties of the colony required no increase, and forbade the trial of any hazardous experiments. With respect to the accusation which had been brought against the Government, by an hon. member (Mr. Coles), charging them with a misapplication of public funds, all he could say was, that he had been only twelve months a member of Government, but that no misapplication of the public funds had been made by them during that period. The hon. member concluded by saying, that he was not ashamed of his position at the Executive Board. It was true he did not rest upon a bed of roses there while a member of the House; but he had not sought there either for appointments for himself or his friends; he had made no pretensions on his own behalf; and neither had he claimed any thing for his friends. With respect to the introduction of Responsible Government, he was pre-

pared to vote for it, whenever the question should be properly introduced, whether he might be in or out of the Executive Council—and more—he was prepared to do so on conviction that the time for a change was arrived; and not in the hope of opening to himself, by his vote, the path to some nice little official emolument, which was more, he thought, than most of the gentlemen in the majority could say.

Cleanings from late Papers.

HONORARY DEGREE.—The Senatus Academicus of King's College and University, Aberdeen, at its meeting on the 14th instant, resolved to confer the honorary degree of L. L. D. upon E. R. Humphreys, Esq., M. A., of Merchiston Castle Academy, author of various educational works, and formerly Secretary of the Government Board of Education of Prince Edward Island. We are authorized in stating that the present degree has been conferred not alone to mark the University's sense of Mr. Humphreys' attainments, as a scholar, but more particularly to evince its appreciation of his judicious and successful labours in the cause of popular education, while he had the superintendence of the District Schools in a British Colony. Mr. Humphreys has certainly exhibited great industry and ability, both as a teacher and a writer; and the fact of his receiving two honorary degrees, from different Universities, within one month of each other, shows that such labors are not unappreciated.

ARRIVAL OF LORD GOUGH.—On Sunday last the Peninsular and Steam Navigation Company's Ship *Indus* arrived at Southampton. Amongst other passengers were Lord Gough, G. C. B., Lady Gough, Colonel Gough, Captain Gough, Major Edwards, the Hon. Mrs. Grant, General and Mrs. Campbell, and General Lovell. The Southampton Docks were densely thronged by a great crowd of the inhabitants of Southampton, who had assembled when the *Indus* entered the tidal basin.—Lord Gough was received in the most enthusiastic manner, and returned thanks from the paddle-box of the steamer. Major Edwards was likewise called for, and was greeted with tremendous cheering. A complete ovation in fact was prepared, and the two gallant officers disembarked amidst thunders of applause both from ships in the dock and from the shore, the band of the *Indus* playing appropriate music.

THE SALE OF THE QUEEN DOWAGER'S EFFECTS.—The sale of the effects of the late Queen Dowager has been at length brought to a close, and notwithstanding the enormous quantity of property for disposal when Marlborough House was first opened three weeks since, we believe it may be correctly stated that scarcely anything remains unsold. A very large amount was realised by the sale on Saturday, parties who had held back thus long coming forward at length in order to secure articles for which they had previously made offers under the fixed tariff of prices, which, truth to say, was in some instances extravagantly high. The Marquis of Ormonde was one of the most extensive purchasers last week, his lordship having bought a large quantity of the crimson and gold furniture. A few lots were sold to Lord Salisbury, but his lordship was outbidden in some important purchases. A few articles, such as the furniture of the late Queen Dowager's bedroom, have been reserved, and in every case where it has been possible to ascertain the fact, presents to the late Queen have been withdrawn and returned to their respective donors. The amount realised by the sale just concluded is said to be something under £20,000, a sum infinitely greater, no doubt, than would have been secured under the hammer.

DR. GESNER'S DISCOVERY.

We are glad to learn that the new description of Gas, produced from *Asphaltum*, is winning its way into favor with our citizens.—The material is to be found in abundance all over America, and it is said immense quantities can be procured in this Province. Dr. Gesner is kept busily employed explaining the nature of his discovery, and exhibiting the light to the curious in such matters. For a trifling sum, say twenty five or thirty dollars, the whole apparatus, including retort, gasometer, &c., may be set up in a building, and the cost of lighting the whole would not exceed a few pence per night. To use the Doctor's words—there is no science about it; the hall stove will manufacture the gas, and the girl that sweeps the house may keep it in order. The exhibitions, thus far, have been in the highest degree satisfactory; the light being remarkably brilliant, even without the usual purifying process of the Gas-house. The light of one burner, of the ordinary size, has been ascertained to be, by actual experiment, equal to six tallow candles. There is also another striking peculiarity in the new gas, it being of a green color which is well known to be grateful to the eye. This property was not observed by Dr. Gesner until pointed out by the New York Professors. It is gratifying to learn that this gas is likely to get into extensive use at New York and other American Cities. Dr. Gesner's son is now fitting up the Astor House in the former City, to burn the article, and the Corporation are making preparations to use the *Asphaltum* also. We also learn that it is in contemplation to light the Halifax Hotel by the same means. And if it be true that the article can be produced at the rate of three shillings per M. feet, it cannot fail to benefit consumers of gas generally. It is even asserted

by many that already has the City felt the influence of competition, it being supplied with gas of a better quality.—*Novascotian*.

The Examiner.

SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 1850.

WHO IS IN THE RIGHT? THE GOVERNOR OR THE ASSEMBLY?

THE facts—stripped of circumlocution and void of raiment—relating to the conference with the Lieutenant Governor, were detailed by us on Wednesday. What conclusions do they warrant?

His Excellency has asserted in his Speech that he has no authority to put in practice the principles of Responsible Government. We are at a loss to say what can be regarded as authority on that head, if the two Despatches laid before the Legislature were not such. But if His Excellency believed what he said in his Speech, why did he ask the House not to be precipitant in the suspension of business, but to wait until he communicated that Despatch which signified the assent of Her Majesty's Government to the introduction of the new System—certain permanent provisions having precedence,—why did he send for Mr. Coles, and go through all the solemn fanfaronade of negotiation? His Excellency could not, surely, suppose that the majority of the Assembly was composed of men so fickle minded that they would change their resolution, and do business with a Government which they had condemned. Why did His Excellency offer three seats in the Council to the Responsible Government party? Was not that offer an admission that he was in possession of the authority which he asserts he had not? Would not Earl Grey have as readily sanctioned an entire change of the Council as a change of a part?

Authority or no authority, it was the duty of the Governor to appoint a new Council, when the resignations of the Board had been tendered. Mr. Coles and his colleagues did not ask His Excellency to displace any one public officer—they could not ask for the removal of the Executive Council, as there was no Executive Council at the time; they merely asked the Governor to put into the seats of those who had resigned such Advisers as would command the confidence of the House of Assembly, so that the House, adhering to its principles, might proceed with the public business. We have been told, indeed,—(by none, it is true, but parasites of the Governor,)—that His Excellency had not the power to accept the resignations of the Council, the members of that Board having received their appointments from his Royal Mistress. Perfect fudge! clap-trap! This is a dodge which nobody will use but one who has been duped or who wishes to dupe others. Why, pray, did he accept Mr. Coles's resignation at the time of Mr. Palmer's election, when he sought to apply to the public conduct of the former gentleman those principles of Government which sixteen months later he says he has no authority to put in practice? His Excellency has the power of making appointments provisionally—is it possible that he has not the power of receiving resignations provisionally? It would be wise in His Excellency to caution his friends against using this excuse, as it can serve only to make him and them appear ridiculous.

But the House of Assembly, it has been asserted by the enemies of Responsible Government, did not make those permanent provisions which, Lord Grey informs us, "must precede" the establishment of the new System of Administration. Let us see how far this is true?

As soon as the extract from the confidential Despatch was laid before the House, a Civil List Bill was submitted, which pledged the country to the payment of the salaries of certain public officers, in perpetuity, including a munificent allowance for the Chief Judge, whose claims were the more particularly urged by the Secretary for the Colonies: that was a good earnest of the intentions of the majority. In the negotiation, the Lieut. Governor expressed himself satisfied with the terms proposed by the leaders of the Responsible Government party, respecting the other three officers for whom he deemed it necessary to make permanent provision; and even although those functionaries may not have been quite satisfied with the arrangement touching their claims, yet as His Excellency was so, and the adjustment of these details, as he states in his Speech, had been left by Her Majesty's