

The Examiner.

AND SEMI-WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER.

"THIS IS TRUE LIBERTY WHEN FREE-BORN MEN—HAVING TO ADVISE THE PUBLIC—MAY SPEAK FREE"—MILTON'S EURIPIDES.

NEW SERIES.

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HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

FRIDAY, 26th April.

(Concluded from our last.)

HOUSE IN COMMITTEE ON THE ADDRESS.

Mr. DAVIES said that there was a striking, and to the House an insulting difference between His Excellency's manner of addressing himself to the Council, and that which he assumed in speaking directly to the Assembly; and every person present must have been aware of it. He thought the impulse upon which Mr. Coles had acted was a commendable one; and he, (Mr. D.) were he placed again as he then stood at the Bar of the Council Chamber, and, as one of the Representatives of the people, to be insulted as he then was, he would act just as Mr. Coles had done. He would support the amendment.

Mr. POPE observed that it would perhaps be manifesting a pettishness, unbecoming the character of the House, to amend the Address as he had at first proposed: on further consideration, it appeared to him that, as the sentiments of the House touching what measure of respect they thought His Excellency entitled to in their Address in answer to his Speech, would go forth to the public—it would be more dignified to omit the first paragraph altogether.

Mr. FRASER said that he would agree to strike out the first paragraph of the amendment. If the House were determined not to thank His Excellency for his Speech, still it would be unbecoming in them to express themselves in an uncourteous manner. As representatives of the people, they were sent to the Assembly to act and to do business like men; and it would be derogatory to their character to give expression to angry feeling in the Address. His Excellency was not in good health, and it was quite possible that his bodily indisposition might have rendered him somewhat impatient in temper; but they ought to overlook forms and attitudes; every man had his failing, and Sir Donald Campbell might not be the most perfect of men. There was nothing to which exception could justly be taken in the language of the speech; and, as for the manner in which it was delivered, he thought that ought to be held as extraneous to the matter. The honorable member then said that he could not let what had fallen from the honorable member for Charlottetown (Mr. Longworth) pass without remark. That honorable member had charged the majority with having retracted from the Resolution to which they agreed at the close of the last Session. He would repeat to him (Mr. L.) what had already been observed to him, that he appeared to be very angry because they were about to do what he himself conceived to be right. For his own (Mr. F's) part, he could not think it very culpable in a man when he had got astray to endeavour to get into the right path; but he denied his (Mr. L's) premises, for, as had already been asserted, the Assembly were in circumstances very different from those in which they stood at the close of the last Session. Then there was certain propositions made to the House, to which they were asked to assent; the principal of which was that they should provide for the Chief Justice; and, on their doing so, all was to be arranged for a change of Government. Well, after they were screwed up to the nines, they agreed to satisfy the Chief Justice, although much against their will; and he, for one, would not hesitate to say that, if the subject were to come before them again, he would be found steadily opposed to the granting of so large a sum as he was then induced to sanction by his vote under a consideration of the peculiar circumstances and the promises which then affected the question. But when that officer was provided for to his satisfaction, His Excellency brought forward the claims of others who would not be satisfied with places, and demanded pensions. Why, it was enough to disgust any men placed as they were to guard the interests of the people, to be called upon to give all, and receive nothing but promises in return. But the position in which they were placed by His Excellency's assent to the last enacting clause of the Civil List Bill, rendered it imperative upon them to raise a Revenue, and to make provision for the operation of that Bill, as well as other matters which could not consistently be made in the last Session, as they did not know until the very moment in which they were prorogued that His Excellency would assent to that Bill; for he had declared to the Committee who waited on him in 1849 with an Address on the subject of Responsible Government, that he was opposed to all forms of Responsibility. However, notwithstanding that declaration, His Excellency, by agreeing to the Bill, had actually concurred in the establishment of Responsible Government by a permanent Act; and, consequently, the House would fail in the discharge of their duty, if they did not pass a Revenue Bill.

Mr. COLES approved of the last amendment proposed by the honorable member for Bedouque; and would vote for the introductory clause being struck out.

The Chairman (Mr. Clarke) then put the question upon Mr. Pope's amendment, which was agreed to.

Mr. SPEAKER did not consider that there was anything insulting in the matter of His Excellency's speech, nor in the manner of its delivery. As to thanks, these were matters of form—but might better be omitted if the majority of the House thought that any arrogance had been exhibited. But blaming Governors, unless on good ground, rather injured a Legislative Body. As to the policy to which the House by that answer would pledge itself, he did not think it the best; but it was very far superior to that to which the Solicitor General and his party were endeavouring to draw them; and, therefore, it should have his (the Speaker's) support.

Mr. WARBURTON thought that His Excellency had manifested a strong disposition to treat the House with contempt, and to offer them every insult in his power to give them.

The question was then put upon the Address offered as an amendment by Mr. Coles—the introductory clause having been first struck out, as agreed to by the Committee—which was adopted on a division of 14 to 6.

The House was then resumed and Mr. Coles' amendment reported agreed to in Committee.

Hon. Mr. PALMER rose and moved, that all after "May it please your Excellency," be struck out, and the Address as reported to the House from the Committee appointed to draft an Address to the Speech, be substituted in its stead.

Mr. SPEAKER having put the question on the motion of amendment, it was lost on the following division:

AYES.—Honourables Sol. General and Mr. Thornton, Messrs. Yeo, Longworth, Montgomery, Haviland—6.

NAYS.—Messrs. Coles, Beaton, Clark, Laird, Lord, Warburton, Fraser, Flynn, Jardine, Davies, Pope, Whelan, Mooney—13.

SATURDAY, April 27, 1850.

HOUSE IN COMMITTEE ON THE STATE OF THE COLONY.

Mr. COLES, with respect to the Resolution to withhold Supplies, agreed to by the House in the previous Session, observed that they had good and sufficient reason to adopt it; and he was decidedly of opinion that, to the general principle embodied in that Resolution, it was the duty of the representatives of the people to refuse to entrust the disposal of the public monies to a Government in which they had no confidence, it was still their duty to adhere. Since their adoption of that Resolution, however, one important, and he might truly say unforeseen circumstance had occurred which not only warranted but demanded their receding to a certain limited extent from the determination therein expressed: the circumstance to which he alluded was that of His Excellency having given his assent to the Civil List Bill, by the suspending clause of which it is enacted that the Act shall not go into operation until a system of Responsible Government, similar to that now in force in the Provinces of Canada, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia, shall be granted and established in this Island. His Excellency had more than once expressed himself decidedly opposed to the introduction into the Colony of any form of Responsible Government; and had distinctly manifested his repugnance to its adoption, in refusing to recognize its first leading principle by a reconstruction of his Council, in accordance with the expressed wishes of the Representatives of the people; the House could not, therefore, with any show of reason, have anticipated the allowance of that Bill by His Excellency; and they matured and passed it merely to convince the Imperial Government of their readiness to assume the payment of the Civil List, in return for the concessions tendered to them, in Her Majesty's name, on their making a suitable provision for the performance of the public service. The Civil List Bill, however, having been assented to by the three Branches of the Legislature, and having been sent home for the Royal allowance, would have, with Her Majesty's advisers, greater weight than if the three Branches, the House of Assembly, Legislative Council, and the Governor had, by a joint Address, petitioned Her Majesty for the establishment of Responsible Government in the Colony; and the people and their representatives had, therefore, good and strong reasons to expect that the Bill would receive the Royal allowance, and that the form of Government desired by the people would thereby be at

once fully conceded. This being the case, it behoved the House, he thought, so far to recede from their Resolution to withhold Supplies and to decline the transaction of any further business with His Excellency, as to pass a Revenue Bill, in order to create a sufficient public fund for the payment of the salaries and allowance conditionally appointed, in the Civil List Bill, to be paid by the Colony, and also out of which to make sufficient appropriations for the payment of the interest of outstanding Warrants, and to defray the Contingent Expenses of the two Houses of Legislature during the past and the present Session; taking especial care to tie up all the moneys which would be paid into the Treasury under the operation of the Revenue Bill, as to place it out of the power of the Government to make any appropriation therefrom not duly authorized by the Legislature—binding the Treasurer, under a heavy penalty, neither to issue nor pay any of the moneys arising from the Act for any other purpose than those expressly declared therein; and having done so, it would then, he conceived, be the duty of the House to decline the further prosecution of Legislative business, until such time as they might consistently proceed therewith, under the assurance of safety to the public interests by due co-operation in their measures by a Responsible Administration. The honorable member then concluded by moving three Resolutions, which have been published in the *Examiner* of the 1st instant.

Mr. FRASER, in seconding the motion, said that should the House adopt the Resolutions which had just been submitted by the honorable member for Queen's County,—as he fully expected they would,—it would be most unjust to accuse the majority, on that account, with an abandonment of the position which they assumed in the previous Session; since all that they now proposed to do, was only what they would have done, after the allowance of the Civil List by His Excellency, in the last Session, had they then had an opportunity to follow up the measure by the one now proposed to be carried according to their original intentions. Their agreeing now to pass a Revenue Bill to raise a fund, out of which to provide for the payment of the salaries and allowance on the Civil List, would, instead of affording a proof of any inconsistency in their proceedings, be an evidence to every just and unprejudiced mind, that the majority had laid down for themselves an honest, straightforward, and independent course, and were determined not to be driven from it by the jeers and taunts of their opponents in the House, or by any obstructions which might be thrown in their way by the Government. He would give the Resolution his best support.

Mr. LONGWORTH observed that the party to which he stood opposed were like all other political parties, in a country that attempted to establish their power by a departure from, and a disregard of, established and constitutional modes of effecting a change in Government: they were actually, whilst professing to keep to one course, compelled openly to depart from it, and to proceed in a line diametrically opposed to that which they had, very recently, positively declared they would pursue. Whilst professing determination and consistency, they were vacillating and uncertain in all their plans; but, like all who found it convenient to waver in a public or political course, they were always ready to fall back upon expedience as a support; and how often soever they might find it convenient to shape a new course, they were never without some excuse for so doing, although some of their pleas were of the sorriest ever depended upon for defence or justification. The one now put forth was indeed a most wretched and inefficient one—the Lieutenant Governor having—unexpectedly they say—given his assent to the Civil List Bill. It was poor and silly indeed; for they knew, or ought to have known that, as a matter of course, His Excellency would give his assent to the Bill, if not withheld from so doing by the Royal instructions.

Mr. COLES briefly replied to Mr. Longworth, that the opinion expressed by that honorable member, signifying that the Lieutenant Governor had merely given his assent to the Civil List Bill as a matter of course, and implying that the measure was not the more likely on that account to receive the Royal allowance, was a very strange opinion indeed. That honorable member seemed to forget that Earl Grey had, by his private Despatch to the Lieutenant Governor, an extract of which was laid before the House, informed His Excellency that he would not advise Her Majesty to refuse the concession of Responsible Government to the Colony, should it appear to be the wish of the people to live under that form of Government. If the prejudices of the honorable member had allowed him to give its full legitimate import to that declaration of Earl Grey, he would have