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Hon. Mr. COLES—The same may be said of the leader of the Government with respect to the late nomination.

Hon. Col. GRAY—Not of this. Mr. McNaab, but the other Mr. McNaab, (laughter.) Under the proposed measure no nomination of that description can hold an office. When the late Government were in power, some four or five members of this House did not, besides two or three from the other side of the House. The contemplated measure would open the way for the disparaging system again, as I think it will remove the principal objections to it being held by members of the Legislature. I may state that if the contemplated Bill, embodying the suggestions of the Duke of Newcastle, be disallowed, it is doubtful whether any measure of the kind, which this House may bring forward, will receive the Royal assent. It behoves this Committee, then, to consider well what they are about in proceeding to decide upon the provisions of a Bill that is to regulate a body which will have the power to thwart the measures of this House.

Hon. Mr. COLES—I entertained the hope that the hon. member, who has just spoken, would have made some motion; but I suppose I may offer a few remarks on the general subject. He states that his principal objection to the Bill is that some years ago a qualification of electors was the same as that of those electing members for the House; but, Sir, I observe by his remarks on the measure last year, that his main objection to it was that the property qualification for candidates was not high enough. When the Bill was sent to the upper House, this was also the principal complaint in that House. The hon. member opposite, who is the author of the Bill, is not aware of the fact that the qualification of electors was the same as that of those electing members for the House; but, Sir, I observe by his remarks on the measure last year, that his main objection to it was that the property qualification for candidates was not high enough. When the Bill was sent to the upper House, this was also the principal complaint in that House.

With an independent Governor, let the Colony have an independent Legislative Council—the members of which shall possess a freehold or leasehold estate in the Island, of the value of £500 sterling—and be appointed by the Governor, without consulting his Executive Council. Such a Governor and such a Council, would soon do away with the feeling of insecurity which pervades the minds of all who possess property in the Island, and prevent men of independent means from leaving our shores, to seek a home where property is protected, and where the law is administered with the object of justice and equity. During the past five years there have been driven from this Island, by disgust at its Government, several gentlemen with families who spent nearly £10,000 a year in the Colony. Her Majesty's Government may remedy those two evils without any danger of reversing the union between the Colony and the United Kingdom.

I am glad that the hon. leader of the Government in this House is doing roundly; he says that the Executive Legislative Council will open the door to carry out the departmental system of government. I suppose, then, if the door be opened, we shall soon have the whole affair. He states that under the late Government the hon. member opposite was the Legislature holding office; but what difference does it make as long as the members of the Government can appoint their own relatives and friends to office. The hon. member might have spared his allusion to the appointments to the Legislative Council, made by the late Government; their conduct was, at least, no worse than that of the present party, who had appointed to office the same individuals. I trust that the hon. member has been a Government measure, and that a Bill ought to have been brought down from the Government with the despatch of the Duke of Newcastle. I suppose there will be very little opposition to any part of the Bill, except it be in regard to the amount of qualification for electors.

Hon. Mr. HAVILAND—The hon. leader of the Opposition of course must oppose everything which proceeds from this side of the House. He objects because a Bill was not brought down by the Government; but, Sir, I think it would have been very dictatorial on our part to have pursued such a course, when the Duke of Newcastle says that his despatch was to be laid before the Legislature. As the hon. member desires something to speak about, I will read a resolution.

Resolved, That any male person of the age of twenty-one years or upwards, who shall own a freehold or leasehold qualification of the value of one hundred pounds currency, and shall have been in possession of the same for a period of at least twelve months previous to the date of the writ of Election, shall be entitled to vote for a member to serve in the Legislative Council in this Island.

I think we cannot well make the qualification lower than this; to fix it at a less amount might endanger the measure, by again preventing it from receiving the Royal assent. I was surprised to see the hon. member opposite, who is the author of the Bill, object to the measure, when the Duke of Newcastle came to the conclusion that members of the Legislative Council do not require a property qualification, viz. because a certain individual, when his Grace was here, wore a red coat and cocked hat. I am a little astonished to hear that the Duke could be convinced that such things were necessary, by a hon. member who said that his Grace had formed this opinion on account of the gentleman's talents, who might believe that there was some truth in his statement.

Hon. Mr. HENSLEY—I do not rise to express my views on the resolution just submitted, but to state that I have strong objections to the manner in which this question has been brought up. Had it been introduced by a Bill, we would not be called upon to vote upon any point immediately; but as this resolution was proposed, it may be necessary for us to vote without having time to give the subject the consideration it deserves.

Hon. Mr. HAVILAND—I consider that the course which has been taken is preferable, because an opportunity is afforded to vote on the resolutions which may be submitted, and on the Bill through all its stages.

Hon. Mr. HENSLEY—I cannot agree with you, because I do not approve of voting hastily upon a measure of such importance.

Hon. the SPEAKER—Though this question had been brought up by a Bill, yet it would not have removed the objection of the hon. and learned member for East Point, as classes containing numbers or amounts are generally inserted with a blank.

Hon. Mr. COLES—It would have been all very well had this matter not come here as the dietum of the Government. But, Sir, I contend that this resolution will deprive a great many respectable and comparatively wealthy people of the privilege of voting for Legislative Council members, who hold property by leasehold.

Mr. DUBOIS—I think the qualification mentioned in the resolution is sufficiently low. I am in favor of keeping up the respectability of the Legislature, and in my opinion, that the qualification of electors at £200 sterling is a high one. I think that the hon. member who proposed it, intended to raise the qualification to £200 instead of £100, the Bill, however, appears to be as high as the circumstances of the Colony will admit of.

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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 1862.
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Ordered, That the Petition do lie on the table.

The House then resolved itself into a committee of the whole on the Bill relating to limited Partnerships. Hon. Dr. JOHNSON in the chair.

Hon. the PRESIDENT—It appears that the principle object of this Bill is to prevent fraud by what is called sleeping partners. I mean persons who ostensibly have the appearance of being partners, but when their creditors seek upon them they find that they have sleeping partners. By this Act such a partner cannot be known; because, if on reference to the place where the certificate is filed, his name is not found, he cannot come in as a partner. Your Honors are aware that a sleeping partner is only liable for the amount which he invests.

Hon. Mr. SIMPSON—Am I to understand that the active partners are liable for the whole, and the sleeping partners only for the amount which they invest?

Hon. Mr. PRESIDENT—Yes, that is the meaning of it.

The committee having gone through the Bill, the House resumed, and the Chairman reported "The Bill agreed to."

Hon. Mr. HUTCHINSON presented a Petition of the City Council of Charlotteville, signed by the Mayor, praying the Legislature to guarantee the payment of City Debentures to the amount of £5000, with interest, for the purpose of building a new market house.

Hon. Mr. HUTCHINSON, with reference to the above named petition, and previous to making a motion to dispose of the petition, your Honors, I beg leave to say a few words respecting it. Your Honors will perceive that if that amount of money is loaned to the City Corporation, the interest, at the rate of 6 per cent, will amount to £300 per annum. Now, it will be some time, supposing the means is obtained, before the market house will be built and in operation, so that any amount of interest will have to be paid for some time before the market house will be built and in operation, so that any amount of interest will have to be paid for some time before the market house will be built and in operation.

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City Marshal, 65 10 0
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Watchman, 50 0 0
Assayer of Weights and Measures, 15 0 0
Clerk of Meat Market, 20 0 0
Clerk of Market, 20 0 0
Collector, 30 0 0

Total for salaries, £870 10 0

Printing and Stationery, £73 6 3
Police Clothing, 358 7 9
Gas, 358 7 9

Total, £1362 4 0

Now, along with this, how could we pay £300 for interest on City debentures?

Hon. the PRESIDENT—What is the amount at present assessed for?

Hon. Mr. HUTCHINSON—The Corporation has the power by Statute to raise money by the sale of land, and in regard to the amount annually by the Governor in Council, they can assess for £250 for gas. Now I think some of these offices can be done away with altogether, and the salaries attached to some of the others reduced. I have no objection to the interest to be paid on the loan required to build the market house. It is the general opinion of the Mayor and the Corporation that they will allow him £50. I would like to know what your Honors think of this.

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Hon. Col. GRAY—Not of this. Mr. McNaab, but the other Mr. McNaab, (laughter.) Under the proposed measure no nomination of that description can hold an office. When the late Government were in power, some four or five members of this House did not, besides two or three from the other side of the House. The contemplated measure would open the way for the disparaging system again, as I think it will remove the principal objections to it being held by members of the Legislature. I may state that if the contemplated Bill, embodying the suggestions of the Duke of Newcastle, be disallowed, it is doubtful whether any measure of the kind, which this House may bring forward, will receive the Royal assent. It behoves this Committee, then, to consider well what they are about in proceeding to decide upon the provisions of a Bill that is to regulate a body which will have the power to thwart the measures of this House.

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