

ly altogether regardless of what might be their future fate. Such immigrants became an immediate burthen to the community into which they were permitted to enter; and looking to the direct interests of this Colony, he, for his own part, would be much more inclined to grant a premium for the conveyance of such persons to a country better fitted for their reception; and in which their willingness to labour might be turned to good and immediate account, than to admit them here on the payment of head money. When the destitute and helpless condition of the immense number of the Irish population, who were driven from their native soil by the pressures of poverty and the horrors of starvation, was feelingly considered, it appeared actually cruel to tax persons whose sufferings from destitution were so great as theirs; yet self-preservation was a paramount law, not only with individuals but with countries, and the exaction of head money was absolutely necessary to protect the Colony in some degree from the burthen which would be thrown upon it by an extensive influx of such immigrants: with that view the Act was passed.

Mr. Lord, to prove the rates of head money in the Act to be excessive, stated that an individual who, with his family, had emigrated from the Old Country to Prince Edward, in one of his (Mr. Lord's) vessels, had, in addition to the passage money, to pay from £16 to £17 head money.

After a few further remarks from Messrs. Palmer and Davies, the House was resumed, and the Bill reported agreed to with amendments. The report was received, and the Bill ordered to be engrossed.

On Monday, 18th March, the Immigrants Bill was read a third time and passed.

CORRESPONDENCE.

MR. WARBURTON'S VERSION OF THE CONFERENCE vs. "MODERATUS."

Lot 11, April 13, 1850.

MY DEAR SIR—

In the *Gazette* of Tuesday last, a second letter signed "Moderatus" has made its appearance. Although I have, up to the present time, rarely if ever answered anonymous communications, particularly those containing personal attacks upon myself, yet, the present one, from the inaccuracy of its assertions, requires some notice, which otherwise it does not merit. In the letter, the following passage occurs:—"Previously, however, to their (Messrs. Coles Warburton and Swabey) leaving Government House, it was agreed upon by both parties that neither was to be bound by its admissions, but that matters were to stand as they did before the interview had taken place." The truth of the assertion I freely admit; it was, therefore, to me a matter of no little astonishment to find that the agreement, if I may call it such, between his Excellency and the Gentlemen engaged in the transaction, was substantially violated, inasmuch as the salary of the Chief Justice was put down in the estimates sent to the House at £700 per annum, when it was well known that the majority of the House did not think that the Chief Justice ought to be bound by an arrangement which was not to be considered as binding on any of the other parties concerned; and as regards the Chief Justice, who, in my humble opinion, merits the applause of all liberal minded men for the concessions he has made, I have no hesitation in asserting, that he has not been fairly dealt with. His Excellency demanded £900 a year for that Gentleman, besides £200, to make up the deficiency for last year; in fact, refused to take less, and he now binds him to take £700 per annum, being the only exception to the arrangement which was to be "binding on none of the parties."

As to the attack on myself, as an individual, I shall merely refer to the Speech of Mr. Palmer, grounded, I presume, on His Excellency's version of the affair, wherein statements were made at variance with facts, as the cause why I considered it my duty to produce a document, not originally intended for publication.

The correspondent of the *Gazette* must, in truth have lived far away in the woods, if he believed that men like myself and Mr. Coles, "advocates of Responsible Government," were so anxious to obtain office as to enter a Council declared by a large majority of the House not to possess the confidence of the people.

I regret as much as any one that the House was compelled to resort to the extreme measure of stopping the supplies, at the same time I believe they had no other alternative and would under similar circumstances do it again, and that they would by so doing gain the unqualified approval of the majority of the inhabitants of the Colony.

I shall not notice the Editorials in the *Gazette* further than to refer the *Editor* of that very independent Journal, to times gone by. Vide a letter published by the proprietor of the *Gazette* on the subject of a certain communication addressed to the Proprietors of Land by Sir Charles Fitzroy, and to express my admiration of the Responsible principles now advocated by him.—See, Mr. Whelan, "*Quem Deus vult perdere prius dementat.*"

I remain yours, very truly,

JAMES WARBURTON.

To EDWARD WHELAN, Esq. M. P. P.

FURTHER FACTS IN REFERENCE TO "THE CONFERENCE."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

SIR,—

I perceive, by the *Gazette* of the 9th inst., that "Moderatus" has transmitted another of his intended mystifiers across the fish-pond; to answer, at once, as I suppose, a double purpose: first, to serve as a private Despatch to Her Majesty's Printer, and, in the second, to save the real or supposed Editor of the *Gazette* from the responsibility of an editorial leader to the same effect.

According to the first opinion expressed by "Moderatus," in the mystifier now under my consideration, it was the express duty of Messrs. Coles, Warburton, and Swabey to accept of the three Seats in the Executive Council offered to them by His Excellency—although, even then, the majority would have consisted of men opposed to the political views of the majority in the Assembly—and having done so, it would have been a further duty obligatory upon Messrs. Coles, and Warburton, as leading members of the Assembly to have used their best endeavours to promote the completion of the public business of the Session.

To this opinion of "Moderatus," I beg leave, Sir, to answer, that Messrs. Coles, Warburton and Swabey seem to have had a perfect knowledge of their position between His Excellency and the Assembly, and to have fully understood the principle for which they and the majority in the Assembly were contending, and, throughout the conference, evidently to have sought, earnestly and honestly, to induce His Excellency to exhibit a practical recognition of it, for the satisfaction of the people, in the structure of his Council.

The course of conduct and line of policy pursued by those three gentlemen, from the opening of the conference to its close, reflects the highest credit upon them in the estimation of all who honestly desire such a wholesome reform in the Government as may conduce to the social and political improvement and benefit of the entire community. They have clearly shewn that their honour, integrity, and conscientious steadfastness of purpose were too strong to be overcome, or even shaken, by offers or prospects of personal aggrandizement or gain; and their consistent public independence, besides the satisfaction which it must afford to the whole liberal party throughout the Island, reflects no inconsiderable degree of credit upon the majority in the Assembly, for the wisdom and discernment which have induced them to acknowledge such men for their political leaders.

These three gentlemen, no doubt, saw not only that, by their accepting of seats at the Executive Board, the establishment of the principle for which they were contending would be brought no nearer, but that their doing so would really be, in effect, a guarantee to the present Government and Officials that they should be left in secure and undisturbed possession of their power and emoluments for twelve months longer; and that moreover, in another Session, their compromise—for such it would have been—might lead to a successful repetition of the same juggling and deceit to the same end.

By the prudent and independent conduct of these gentlemen, however, this temporary security to maladministration and the corruption which it protects, has happily, been denied; and the majority of the House, influenced by the same uncompromising public spirit which governed those gentlemen in declining compliance with the arrangement proposed to them by His Excellency, have so far checked the motion of the State-Coach wheels, that the people rejoice in the assured hope that they will soon altogether cease to revolve for the sole benefit and pleasure of those who have long grossly abused the privilege—unjustly conferred upon them and unwisely continued to them—to direct and control all its motions.

But "Moderatus," on the contrary, influenced by a wonderfully strong fellow-feeling with the State-Coach Guards, Drivers, and Cads—now fearfully and tremblingly anticipating their dismissal, without either commendatory character or consolatory pecuniary consideration—seems himself almost to shudder at the thoughts of the degradation and destitution which await and threaten some of the improvident members of the official train; and—seeing how great an advantage those gentlemen with "itching palms" might have derived from an unlawful appropriation of the impost duties, had the House of Assembly been so unwise and unwary as, by the passing of a Revenue Bill, to place its probable proceeds within the reach of their venal grasp—he accuses the majority of the House of having needlessly and rashly endangered the interests of their constituents by the withholding a Revenue Act; and hopes, no doubt, by so doing, to excite, amongst the constituencies, feeling of distrust and dissatisfaction, as respects the views and proceedings of their representatives. But were "Moderatus" capable of forming any thing like an approach to a proper estimate of the stern determination, into which the people have been goaded, by long misrule and unjust exaction; he would, at once, be convinced that, instead of feeling a predisposition to be acted upon to his wish, by such a condemnatory review of the very unusual and extreme course taken by their representatives, they trustfully and joyfully regard that course as a clear indication of the positive good which such men, upheld by the public voice, must effect for the community at large. For the Assembly to have

acted as "Moderatus" wishes to convince the people they ought to have done, would have been quite as unwise in them, as it would be foolish in one country to supply another, from its own resources, with the means of carrying on a war against its own interests.

Another charge preferred against Messrs. Coles, Warburton, and Swabey, by "Moderatus," is that, in committing to paper what took place between His Excellency and themselves, they violated that honourable confidence which ought to subsist between gentlemen. Was the conference which took place between His Excellency and those gentlemen one involving merely individual or private interests? No; most assuredly it was not: the considerations in question were of a most important character; and the conference and its issue as much concerned the people at large, although privately held within the walls of Government House, as the proceedings of the most public meeting ever held in the Island for the most general purposes. Was it not then due to the people, that they should be minutely informed concerning every particular of the "conference," that they might be enabled rightly to judge, on so important a subject, between the Representative of Her Majesty and the gentlemen who represented the majority of the popular Branch of the Legislature, and, by consequence, the interests of the majority of the constituencies? To argue otherwise, would be altogether to leave out of the question, the best interests and most important rights of those for whose benefit both the Government and the House of Assembly have been established.

This consideration however apart, the circumstance of the Hon. Mr. Palmer's having given, in his place in the Assembly, a version of the particulars of "the conference," as imparted to him by His Excellency, widely differing in some of its leading features from the written statement afterwards read by Mr. Warburton, also in his place in the House, is a complete justification of the jealous precaution which induced Messrs. Coles, Warburton, and Swabey to commit all the circumstances to a safer keeping, than that of a treacherous memory. And, in reviewing the whole affair, it ought not to be forgotten, that the contradiction given, by the Hon. Mr. Palmer, to the verbal statement of Mr. Coles, called forth the production of the written one from Mr. Warburton, who, it appears, would have foreborne to produce it, had it not been absolutely necessary to have recourse to it in order to shew the House whose version of the matter—that of Mr. Coles or of the Hon. Mr. Palmer—was the most worthy of being relied upon.

The gentlemanly forbearance which Mr. Warburton evidently wished to observe—and from which he departed only when compelled, by the inaccuracy of the Hon. Mr. Palmer's statement, to do so in vindication of the truth of one of the gentlemen with whom he had been associated in "the conference,"—appears to have been quite misunderstood or unappreciated by "Moderatus"; who, in a very ungentlemanly manner takes leave to insinuate, under shelter of his *nom de guerre*, that Mr. Warburton, in consequence of his long abode in "the Bush," had become so rude and rustic, as to have ceased to remember what, on such an occasion, was due from one gentleman to another. The conduct of Mr. Warburton, on the contrary, arising, as it certainly did, from the impulsive feelings of the moment, which led him boldly to assert and defend the truth of his friend, when impugned even under the sanction of the highest individual authority in the land; is sufficient to convince any man capable of justly estimating the character of a true gentleman, that the mind of Mr. Warburton is strongly and deeply imbued with the immutable principles of truth, honour, justice, and courage, which are invariably found to regulate the behaviour and govern the actions of every man justly entitled to the distinctive appellation of "a gentleman." By a due consideration of the two following lines of Pope's, and a just discrimination of the two characters, strongly, though briefly, contrasted therein, "Moderatus" may, perhaps, be secretly informed touching the real difference between himself and Mr. Warburton.

"Worth makes the man, and want of it the fellow;
The rest is all but leather and praeello."

"Moderatus" has very feebly endeavoured to justify the conduct of His Excellency, with reference to the subject of the conference; urging that to have entirely remodelled his Council would have been to contravene the instructions of the Imperial Government, which he was bound to observe. Without here again insisting upon the erroneous construction put upon the last two Despatches of Earl Grey by His Excellency and his advisers, I will now only remark that it appears to have completely escaped the observation of "Moderatus" that, to effect or establish any thing like a justification of His Excellency, touching that question, it would be requisite to be able to prove that His Excellency, on determining upon the dissolution of the last House, immediately transmitted a Despatch to the Colonial Office, acquainting Earl Grey with the important step which he had taken, or was about to take, and requesting to be favoured with positive instructions, by which to regulate his public conduct, in the event of the new Assembly's proving one determined to effect, if possible, the establishment of Responsible Government in the Colony. Having omitted to do this, His Excellency most materially failed in the performance of his duty; and, that failure and neglect, coupled with the unwillingness which he has manifested ever since the meeting of the new Assembly, to recognize the course which it has