

6. All differences between the several branches of the Legislature have thus died a natural death; and the battle must be fought, for the future, at the hustings, or in the Assembly House.

7. With regard to the charges, if they may be so called, against myself, I must, however, distinctly disavow any desire to escape from them, or to urge against them the fact of the body from whom they emanated having now no legal existence. It is true that in the next House, on whichever side may be the majority, all motive or occasion for collision with the Governor will be removed, and a past example of firmness and determination in the discharge of my duties will be most likely to procure respect for my office for the future. But in this matter, something more is involved than a mere passing difference; and I owe it to the honour of the office I hold, and to myself, to request that the question may be determined upon its own merits, and, if it shall be found, as I believe it will, that I have been actuated solely by a desire faithfully to administer the government of this colony in accordance with the instructions I have received from Her Majesty's Government, and to carry out their views, and that my conduct has been such as, under the embarrassing circumstances by which I was surrounded, was best calculated to promote that end, that I may receive from the Imperial Government that support to which, under these circumstances, I conceive I am fairly entitled.

8. When I reflect upon those events so full of profound incident and importance which now engage the attention of Her Majesty's Government, and of every loyal heart, it is a source of pain to me to be obliged to occupy your time and attention by a reference to a quarrel so entirely gratuitous as this.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Ker B. Hamilton.*

10 December 1854.

P. S.—Having just learnt that it is extremely doubtful whether the regular mail from England will be despatched so as to enable me to communicate at the usual time by the return mail, I take advantage of a sailing vessel about to sail for Liverpool, to transmit the foregoing duplicate of a despatch intended to have been forwarded by the packet. I will transmit by the earliest opportunity copies of the Acts which have been passed with a view to their being submitted for the Royal confirmation. The Representation* and Pension Acts* (the preliminaries of responsible government) I would suggest should be confirmed with as little delay as possible. As the publication of them in the "Royal Gazette" is authentic, the copies enclosed may, perhaps, suffice for this purpose.

* Copies of these Acts will be found at pp. 123, 124.

Royal Gazette,
5 December 1854.

Enclosure in No. 28.

Encl. in No. 28.

Resolved, That the House was fully justified in declaring that his Excellency, in refusing to hold the elections this fall, imperiled the Revenue Bill, which expires on the 27th May next.

Resolved, That the next Revenue Bill to be passed by the House must be adapted to the requirements of the treaty for the establishment of free trade with the United States; and his Excellency, in his opening speech, having informed the House that he had not the necessary instructions to enable them to legislate on this subject, the question has not occupied our attention on this account, independent of our unwillingness to trust legislation on the question of free trade to a hostile Council.

Resolved, That in view of the present collision between the House and the Executive Government, the Assembly are of opinion that all legislative proceedings should be suspended until the issue of the appeal which has now been made to Her Majesty's Government, and that the House accordingly do adjourn to the 10th January.
