

Colonies since he assumed the administration of the government, relating to the subject of the casual and territorial revenues. The reply of His Excellency to the request for more detailed accounts was a courteous one; but while he consented to furnish the accounts requested, in detail, it was with the understanding that his compliance was not to be considered as a precedent. He declined, however, to give the names of the parties who had their timber seized or forfeited, or the names of the petitioners for Crown land. He also refused to furnish the accounts of the Receiver General and Commissioner of Crown lands, on the ground that they were accounts exclusively between these officers and the Crown.

With regard to the request for his correspondence with the Colonial Secretary, Sir Archibald Campbell, in another message, gave a tart refusal, stating that such a request was subversive of the principles and spirit of the British Constitution, and that he would ill deserve the confidence put in him by His Majesty were he to hesitate in meeting so dangerous an encroachment, not only on the independence of the Executive, but the prerogative of the British Crown, with a most decided and unqualified refusal. This old military tyrant considered himself a proper exponent of the principles and spirit of the British Constitution. He failed to understand that the British Constitution rests upon the support of the people, while his system of government was intended to ignore the people altogether.

A few days after the receipt of this message, a resolution was passed by the House of Assembly,