

ment, while he has preserved the prerogative with a jealous and sensitive regard to the rights of the Crown—appointing and removing at pleasure—has used it with the utmost deference to the rights and feelings of the people. With these explanations, let me now answer the question, how has this power been exercised in the different Counties? We are bound to give an answer to this question in the House, because, although none have made sweeping charges here, they have been made elsewhere, and reiterated by the designing and malicious from one end of the Province to the other. Here, on the floors of this House, is the place where charges, either against a Government or any of its Members, should be made, if they can be made at all. Here, if a man tells an untruth, it can be probed, his subtleties torn to pieces, and he made ashamed, before the assembled Representatives of the people whom he seeks to mislead. Here a man can stand up and defend his conduct, and contend fairly for his principles, and though I may disregard the covert slanders which are hourly cast upon the Government, it gives me pleasure to stand here in its defence, because I know that its acts and its policy are defensible.

In seven Counties of the Province, Halifax, Cape-Breton, Queen's, Lunenburg, Sydney, Shelburne, and Inverness, every appointment throughout the year has been either made in accordance with the suggestions of the gentlemen who represent them, or in such a manner as I have reason to know meets their approval. This is a wide departure from the old system, a substantial concession from the Crown to the People: and yet the rights of the Crown are studiously guarded, for not one of those appointments would Lord Falkland have made, unless, in his deliberate judgment, he approved of the suggestions. Let me run over the other Counties, and see how matters stand. In Richmond every local appointment, but two, was made at the suggestion of the Members, and those two were recommended by the gentleman who formerly represented the County. In Hants and Colchester all that were asked were given, with others which were satisfactory. In Digby, where there has been a division of sentiment, the claims of both parties were respected. In Yarmouth some awkward mistakes occurred in the appointment of the School Commissioners, in which, perhaps, the Government were to blame; yet the error arose from no desire to annoy, but from the want of that minute local information, which, however desirable, cannot always be had in the capital. The Magistrates given to Yarmouth were approved, or, if there was any fault, more good ones were appointed than were asked or expected. In Cumberland two parties exist, the one represented here by two Members, and the other by one, yet the aim of the Government has been to do justice to both, to select men of influence and respectability from each, and to draw the population together by a course of conciliation and justice. Annapolis was a County peculiarly situated. One party, there, a small minority, had for a long time held dominant sway over the other, which embraced much of the wealth, intelligence, and productive industry of the County. Without, then, disturbing the minority in