

ture of this Province and that of the Mother country, and aware that objections on this point might be raised against your assumption of like powers and privileges, were anxious to discover a Legislative body similar in dependence on the Imperial Parliament—what privileges such a body claimed and exercised. The history of Ireland presents your Committee with an example in point. The Parliament of that country, though dependant on the British Legislature till 1782, and possessing much less power within Ireland, than the Legislature has over this Province, nevertheless appears to have claimed and exercised all the privileges of the Parliament of Great Britain.

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Your Committee next turned their attention to the Colonial Governments existing in America, before the Civil War, and those which are still in force in the West India Islands, and find that the proceedings of their Houses of Assembly and Councils, were conducted, and their journals kept, in a manner much conformed to those of the two Houses of Parliament." "Provincial Parliaments, or Colonial Assemblies, (it matters not by what name they are called,)" says the historian of the West Indies, "being thus established and recognized, we shall find that in their formation, mode of proceeding, and extent of jurisdiction, within their own circle, they have constantly copied and are required to copy as nearly as circumstances will admit the example of the Parliament of Great Britain. The freeholders are assembled in each town or parish respectively, by the King's Writ;—their suffrages are taken by an Officer of the Crown; and the persons elected are after-

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