

The opinion of the Lieutenant Governor upon this subject, as expressed in his Minute of the 3rd December 1861, remains unchanged. He cordially approves of the suggestion, that the Presidentship of the Legislative Council should be an elective office, but continues to think that a longer tenure of office than that proposed would have been desirable. He has, however, no wish to oppose the deliberate and reiterated recommendation of his Council, on what is, after all, a matter of detail, and of so exclusively local interest.

The Lieutenant Governor takes this opportunity of making a few remarks upon the Minutes of the Executive Council, to which he has not hitherto given any reply.

The Lieutenant Governor has never denied, and does not doubt that the people of this country do not desire change for its own sake; that when they seek a change in their Institutions, it is with a view to improve and adapt them to the altered circumstances and condition of the country; but His Excellency is at a loss to perceive in what manner this fact is inconsistent with his assertion, that the tendency to make such changes must of necessity be more frequent in a country where all Institutions are as yet in a manner tentative, than in one where they are supported by traditions of antiquity and long established authority.

The Council state that they are unable to perceive that the introduction of the elective principle into the Legislative Council, in the shape of frequently recurring elections to its Presidency, will have any tendency towards the introduction of the elective principle in the choice of the members of that body, or that an office whose tenure is only for a short term of years, possesses less dignity than one held for life. The Lieutenant Governor sees no occasion to discuss these questions afresh, though he certainly remains of opinion that both of these propositions might easily be established by argument.

The Lieutenant Governor entertains the most sincere respect for the Executive Government of the Province, and for the Gentlemen of whom it is at present composed; but he can hardly echo the sanguine belief expressed in the concluding paragraph of the Minute, that no future Government of the Province will ever at any time to come be exposed to temptations which have beset, or yield to weaknesses which have at some period influenced every other known Government on the face of the Globe.

ARTHUR H. GORDON.

Fredericton, 14th November, 1862.

A Message from His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor was delivered by the Honorable Mr. Steeves, a Member of Her Majesty's Executive Council.

The Honorable Mr. Saunders read the same; and it was again read by the Clerk, as follows:—

NEW BRUNSWICK.

Message to the Legislative Council.—20th February, 1863.

ARTHUR H. GORDON.

His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor lays before the Legislative Council Papers and Correspondence on the following subjects:—

I. Disallowance of an Act intituled "An Act to amend an Act intituled 'An Act to authorize the appointment of Commissioners in the United Kingdom and other parts of Her Majesty's Dominions, and in the United States of America, to take Affidavits and Acknowledgments of Deeds and other Instruments relating to matters in this Province.'"

1. Secretary of State for the Colonies to the Lieutenant Governor, 4th August, 1862, (with Enclosure.)
2. Secretary of State for the Colonies to the Lieutenant Governor, 8th September, 1862. (Being in continuation of Papers laid before the Legislature 20th March, 1862.)

II. More intimate union of the British North American Provinces.

1. The Secretary of State for the Colonies to the Lieutenant Governor, 6th July, 1862, (with two Enclosures.)

III. Admission into French Ports of British North American Ships.

1. The Secretary of State for the Colonies to the Lieutenant Governor, 28th June, 1862.

A. H. G.