

of persons in circumstances not calculated for the independent or understanding exercise of the right of franchise, as persons receiving township or other public aid, Indians, &c.

The committee have considered Mr. Ross's petition, and recommend, that the offence of bribery, when brought home to a member of the house, should be declared by law to vacate his seat, and render him ineligible to be returned for the same parliament.

All which is respectfully submitted.

J. W. JOHNSTON,
L. O'C. DOYLE,
ROB. MURRAY,
BENJ. SMITH,
THOMAS KILLAM,
JAMES McLEOD,
JOHN C. HALL,
STEWART CAMPBELL.

House of assembly, 3rd April, 1852.

No. 88.

(See page 193.)

The committee to whom was referred the petition of Alexander Chisholm, of Antigonishe, praying the aid of this honorable house to enable him to procure a patent in the United States, for an invention designed to facilitate calculations in navigation, beg leave to report as follows :

That while your committee are not disposed to question the ingenuity or the value of the invention submitted, nor yet insensible of the duty of the legislature, under peculiar circumstances, to foster and encourage the exertions of those engaged in scientific or literary pursuits, yet your committee feel reluctant to recommend the house to pursue so unusual a course as that of granting the loan prayed for, as thereby a precedent of pernicious tendency would be established. Your committee would rather recommend that the petitioner be advised to look in some other quarter for aid to protect and publish his invention, which (if it is of that novel and useful character asserted) cannot fail to yield a profitable return. And particularly does your committee feel themselves called on to recommend this latter course, as in pursuance of a report of a select committee during the last session, an advance of fifty pounds out of the public funds, has already been made to Mr. Chisholm, for the prosecution of the same object which the present application is intended to forward.

All which is respectfully submitted.

STEW'T. CAMPBELL,
JOHN C. WADE,
THOMAS COFFIN.

Halifax, 29th March, 1852.

No. 89.

(See page 194.)

The committee to whom were referred the returns of consular certificates, collected by the officers at various ports in this province, during the year 1851, with instructions to consider the subject of consuls' fees generally, beg leave to report :

They regret that the returns are not so complete as to enable them to ascertain with that degree