

Province, and by reasons I will hereafter detail, I am irresistibly led to the conclusion that the financial interests of the Country are likely to be injuriously affected by individuals engaged in the actual collection and management of the Public Revenue, to so large an amount as both the Collector of Excise for the Halifax District, and the Treasurer must necessarily be, holding seats in the Assembly; and this will be the case to a yet greater extent if the term of their keeping their offices is to depend, not only on their having seats in the Assembly, but on their belonging to a party having the majority in that body, and therefore the establishment in this Province of a system of Government to be carried on through Heads of Departments must, if adopted, be attended by the creation of other officers than those now existing in the Colony, and never can in my opinion be brought into successful operation until the population of the Country are willing that they should both be created and adequately paid.

With reference to the person holding the appointment of Treasurer, it cannot be anticipated from the constitution of Society here, the nature of the office or the emoluments attached to it, that the gentleman filling it should be an individual possessed of much wealth, and as his continuance in place and prospects in life would depend on his return to the Assembly every four years, and the continued ascendancy of his party there, the strong temptation to which such an individual would be exposed to expend large sums of money beyond what his extremely limited income would warrant in contested elections, and other means of supporting the influence of the party, on the duration of whose power his bread depended, is too obvious to need exposition; while on the other hand his weight with his colleagues at the Council Board at which he would necessarily hold a seat, and his influence in the Assembly through his party there, would materially tend to check that vigilant supervision to which every Public Accountant should be subject, both on the part of the Executive Government and of the Legislature. This your Lordship will readily perceive would be especially the case were the appointment held by a Member of Parliament whose talents rendered him eminently useful to his party, who might therefore be disposed to palliate or altogether overlook official misconduct which even the head of the Government would be powerless to remedy.

The practical necessity for excluding from the House of Assembly and Executive Council all persons employed in any manner in the direct collection of the public money, has been so strongly felt in Canada, that a Law to that effect was passed there a few years since.

After deliberately weighing these circumstances, I have it in contemplation, unless such a course should meet your Lordship's disapproval, to give the office of Treasurer to some gentleman not belonging to the Assembly, with the understanding that he shall not enter the Provincial Parliament without the special sanction of Her Majesty, or, should I find it expedient to select any one now in the House, with the understanding that on his seat being vacated, (as according to Law it would be by his acceptance of the appointment,) he should not again become a candidate for the suffrages of a popular constituency.

Mr. Wallace is the son of the late Treasurer, who more than once acted for a considerable period as President of the Province, during the absence of the Lieutenant Governor for the time being. His son had hitherto borne an irreproachable character, and his connexions and friends are among the most respectable inhabitants of the Colony. The discovery of his delinquencies has therefore given me more than ordinary concern, and has naturally excited a great sensation in the community.

This unhappy occurrence has unexpectedly compelled me to bring under your Lordship's notice the various considerations that present themselves in connexion with the necessity which has arisen for supplying the vacancy so unfortunately created, and the exigencies of the public service require that I should solicit your early instructions on the subject.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

FALKLAND.

Provincial

LORD STANLEY, &c., &c., &c.