

[It was about this time that I discovered what an erroneous estimate I had made of John Willson's character; I began to perceive the cloven foot, and the more I looked into the man, and the more I examined his past parliamentary conduct, the more I was satisfied that he was acting a double and deceitful part as a politician. I judged, however, that it would be of no avail for me to represent him to his constituents in his true light before the close of the parliament; but I wrote a letter to him, and there stated my undisguised sentiments of his conduct. He is at liberty to publish it. I have since tried to coax him into some favourable measures for affording information to the press, as Speaker, but he was too much the creature of Acting Clerk Fitzgibbon to give heed to my remonstrances.]

No. 52. MISAPPLICATION OF PUBLIC MONEY.

Mr. HAMILTON, being of the opinion that the assembly was about to be dissolved, and that government might venture upon taking the public monies for their own uses without leave of the assembly, introduced on the 23rd March, 1825, seconded by Capt. John Matthews, a motion "that it be resolved, that the applying any sum of "unappropriated money, or surplussage of funds, to uses not voted or addressed by "parliament, is a misapplication of the public money."—In support of this motion, Mr. H. and Doctor Leftery quoted the example of Mr. Fox, in the British House of Commons, who had carried a similar measure by a great majority.

Here, however, corruption had taken too deep root, and the venal part of the assembly were now bringing forth those buds of sycophancy, which afterwards blossomed into downright courtiership.

The bad votes on the above motion, succeeded in opposing it, and were as follows: Messrs. Charles Jones, Walsh, Ingersol, Clark, York Thompson, Atkinson, Attorney General, Beasley, Gordon, D. Jones, McDonald, McDonell, McLean, Morris, Playter, Wilkinson, Vankoughnet, and Walker.—18. (Jonas Jones was absent.) The timeserving conduct of the assembly at this period, cast the arbitrary arts of the executive into the shade, and disposed many persons, among which I was one, to view the government with less suspicion, until in the next session the diabolical scheme of involving the country in civil war, by breaking British faith with the Anglo-Americans, unfolded itself, and induced me, as a good subject of Great Britain, to enter the lists of unqualified opposition, and I trust that my private and public exertions in the honest cause I disinterestedly espoused, have, in some small degree, aided in convincing the country that at the ensuing election "every man ought to do his duty," by throwing aside all selfish and mercenary considerations; voting and acting faithfully and uprightly, and encouraging one another in the good cause.

No. 53. WANT OF A QUORUM.

In reading the black book, the electors must not suppose, if they do not perceive the name of their representative among the bad votes, that, as a matter of course, he voted right. This by no means follows: "On many occasions, members, to avoid displeasing the government, or lessening their own popularity, have staid away from a debate; or, at the division, left their seats and stepped below the bar or out of the House. Very many members were, last parliament, irregular and uncertain in their attendance; and consequently delayed the business of the country, and added to the burthens of their constituents.

For an example of irregular attendance, take the following, from the journals of the 1st session of 9th parliament, p. 64.

"Wednesday, 16th March, 1825.

Members present, Messrs. Walsh, Hornor, Hamilton, Walker, C. Jones, Randal, Leftery, Clark, Perry, D. Jones, Beardsley, Attorney General, James Wilson, Peterson, Vankoughnet, McBride, and H. C. Thomson, 17."

Twenty three being necessary for the despatch of business, the Speaker, after waiting from 10 o'clock in the morning till 6 at night, declared the House adjourned for want of a quorum.

It is a very natural question, "Where were the others?"—And although we cannot reply to it positively, we incline to think that some of them might have been employed during the day on the trial of controverted elections. But that excuse will not serve for the like occurrences during the four sessions.