

assuming the Government, was felt to be the main fault in its construction. A seat was offered to the Hon. Member from Yarmouth, who, I have always regretted, felt himself constrained, by strong opinions on a particular measure, and strong feelings towards particular individuals, to decline it. But his Lordship did not stop there: the recent appointment of the learned Member for Inverness, must have shown to the Members of the old majority, that there is no desire to retain old feelings and antipathies among the Members of the present Government, but that the wish is to act for the general satisfaction and benefit of the Province at large. Let me now glance over the small but necessary appointments which pervade the Country. Many of these yield little or no emolument—but they confer honor and influence in the different Counties, and they may be made in a way either to wound the feelings of large classes of the people, or to convince the population that they have been distributed by a just and paternal Government. In dwelling for a moment on this branch of the duties of the Executive, I think I may declare at the outset, that no new Administration, coming into office with new principles, ever dealt more leniently with those holding high official or subordinate situations, than did the Government of Lord Falkland. Of all those who had been crowded into every post and commission during a party Government of half a century—but four or five Magistrates, and these for particular reasons which need not be gone into now, have been displaced, in eighteen months, by the Lieutenant Governor. Whether this conduct were wise or unwise, looking merely to the ordinary modes of strengthening a new Administration, it ought to prove to the party whose friends have thus been left in possession, that there has been no desire to act harshly, but a generous determination to do what was right and conciliatory, even to those whose ancient monopoly had been broken up. With respect to appointments, the rights and duties of the Executive, and of the House, ought to be distinctly understood. In receiving from Members of the Legislature suggestions and information, with respect to appointments, the Government exercises but a just discretion. The utmost weight has been, and will ever be, given to the opinions of those who represent and live among the people; but it must always be borne in mind, that all these offices, as also the highest in the land, are in the gift of the Queen's Representative, and that the free exercise of the prerogative, even in the most remote settlement of the Colony committed to his care, in the distribution of patronage, as in the protection of the subject, is a duty which Lord Falkland is determined conscientiously to discharge. In seeking suggestions and information, from those whose opinions are best entitled to respect, the advisers of His Excellency have only done their duty to the Queen's Representative in the manner most likely to give satisfaction—they have never asked that the prerogative should be surrendered into their hands, much less into the hands of Members of this House. But they are here to defend its exercise—to shew that the Nobleman at the head of the Govern-