

First Report.

and Hastings, with less value, altogether, on the assessment rolls, are represented by five members.

Consequences
of the defective
constitution of
the Province.

The consequences of a defective constitution, in this Colony have been most injurious to its peace prosperity and welfare. With an unequal and partial representation of the people in your honorable house; with a judiciary the members of which are dependant on the executive for their subsistence, and continuance in office; with uncertainty and confusion in the laws, and judges deposed for a conscientious expression of their opinion concerning them; with an unnecessarily expensive and very inefficient administration of justice in the several courts; with an entire absence of all accountability and responsibility to the country on the part of public officers; with the mismanagement of the waste lands of the crown, and the misapplication of the public revenue, and of the funds set apart for education; with continued neglect of the petitions of the people and of the remonstrances of successive Houses of Assembly addressed to successive administrations of the imperial government; with the attempts made on the part of the clergy of the established church of England to obtain supremacy and political power and influence, these attempts being aided and encouraged by the executive government; and with complete impunity secured to the provincial executive for its greatest abuses of power, under the name of a legislative council appointed by that executive; with these features in the system of government which obtains in Upper Canada, how can the harmonious co-operation of the rulers and the ruled for the common good of the whole be expected?

Disclosure of
attempts to
tamper with
the Legislative
Council by the
Executive.

Your Committee perceive in the composition of the Legislative Council an almost insuperable barrier to any attempts that may be made on the part of the present or any future House of Assembly to bring about a reformation in the state of the representation of the people; and before concluding this report are anxious to draw the attention of Your Honorable House to the account of the influence of the executive government in the Legislative Council, given in evidence by the Honorable Thomas Clark and the Honorable William Dickson, members of that Honorable House, before a committee of the House of Assembly, appointed in 1828 to con-