

laid before the Legislative Assembly, for the purpose of rendering the Legislative Council elective. This Bill was then in the charge of the Honorable Mr. *Morin*, who having accepted a place on Bench, quitted the Executive Council, and vacated his seat in the Assembly.

2. The Honorable Mr. *Cauchon*, who succeeded Mr. *Morin*, as Commissioner of Crown Lands, took up the subject, after full consideration with his colleagues, he withdrew the original Bill, and introduced another, of which the provisions were somewhat different.

The latter measure passed the Legislative Assembly last year by large majorities, but was lost in the Legislative Council.

The second reading was carried in the Legislative Assembly by a majority of 80 to 4; nor did these four Members, as I understand, belong to one party, or oppose the measure on one and the same principle.

3. In the present Session, (1856) a similar measure was introduced, and after undergoing some amendments in the Legislative Council, has been passed by both Houses.

4. I have now the honor to submit for the signification of Her Majesty's pleasure, in pursuance of the Statute 17 and 18 Victoria, Cap. 118, this Bill. I feel it my duty to enter fully on the subject of so important a measure, and I therefore fear that I must trouble you at considerable length in the present despatch.

5. It is almost superfluous to argue on the expediency of two Chambers in order to secure full and fair discussion for every legislative measure, and to guard against the haste, which is likely to result from a popular feeling in favor of a particular enactment. This necessity has been pretty well admitted whenever Representative Government is established. A measure may often be said to come forth from the Assembly holding in solution certain noxious elements, likely to be ultimately injurious to those who at the moment clamour for it. What sound Statesmanship requires is, that time should be gained for a Bill in such condition to be subjected to some test or agent; which may, as it were, precipitate and make manifest these latent principles of evil;—If this can be, done and a certain delay interposed, common sense generally regains its strength, and the wishes of the people will probably in the end point in the direction of their real interest.

6. The best means for attaining this object may, as I have said, be assumed to be the operation of a second Chamber, under such conditions as give time and opportunity for free and deliberate discussion. Discussion however, to secure its end, must be conducted by men who feel that they have in their hands the power of rejection, when they disapprove, and who are conscious of holding a position in the Community such as will bear them out in temporary opposition at least, to the apparent wishes of the people themselves. On any other terms it is little better than the consideration of a measure by a debating Society or Club.