

ry, were reiterated at the close of the despatch of the 31st Oct. in which your Majesty directed that the councils should be composed "not only without reference to distinctions of religious opinions, but in such a manner as, to afford no plausible ground for the suspicion that the choice was influenced by that consideration." Such being the gracious intentions of your Majesty—intentions which, if once fairly carried out, would forever remove from the Province those jealousies that the apparent preference given by the local Government to one class of christians over all others, is but too well calculated to inspire—your loyal subjects observe with surprise and regret; that in the new Executive Councils as lately remodelled, five of the nine Gentlemen of which it is composed are members of the Church of England—and that eight out of the fifteen who form the Legislative Council are also members of that Church, his Lordship the Bishop being one.

Though fully appreciating the delicate and difficult nature of the task, which, in the arrangement of these bodies, devolved on your Majesty's Representative in this Province—and which heightened by the obligation to consult the feelings and admit the claims of many members of the former Council—this Assembly humbly conceive that this unwise distinction, by which a clear majority is still given, in both Councils, to one body of christians, embracing but a fifth of our population, is as justly objectionable now as the former arrangement, upon the same policy, was in 1837.

In some other respects, it appears to this Assembly that the wise directions of your Majesty have been overlooked. The Despatch of the 20 April contemplates a fair representation in the councils of "all the great interests" of the Province; and the appointment of persons "connected not merely with the Capital, but with the other principal Towns, and with the rural districts." The composition of the Legislative Council shows that more than one half the members still reside in the town of Halifax—that while the legal profession sends 6 members out of fifteen—the Agricultural interest, that which in this, as in most other countries, lies at the foundation of all others, and embraces the greatest amount of population, property and general intelligence, sends but two. Had such a disproportion been forced on the local Government, by any regard to the peculiar claims of former Councillors, as any palpable necessity growing out of the circumstances of the Country, the Representatives of the people might have seen less reason to complain—but they would be wanting in their duty to your Majesty, if they did not frankly declare, that in this as in other respects, the gracious intentions of the Crown do not appear to have been fulfilled. The desire of your Majesty "to entrust the duties attached to members of the respective Councils to Gentlemen entitled to the confidence of the great body of the Inhabitants," would seem to have given place to influences in the Colony, political or religious, against which the Representatives of the people have often had to contend. But, without dwelling on what appears to this Assembly a marked departure from the spirit if not the letter of the despatches submitted to us by your Majesty's command we owe it to our Sovereign—to the desire for mutual confidence between her Majesty and her loyal subjects in this Province—humbly to declare that, while in both councils, as at present constituted, there are members who are friendly to a liberal policy, the majority are known to be unfavourable to any of those Reforms which the People of this Province anxiously desire in their Institutions.

In approaching those financial questions in the final arrangement of which we feel a deep

interest, from the important bearing they have on the peaceful development of our resources and the preservation of those "moderate and simple habits," which, in a young country, are the best guarantees for public virtue and private happiness,—this Assembly are embarrassed by the difficulty of conveying to their Sovereign an adequate conception of the weight attached, by their constituents, to a wise and satisfactory application of those principles of economy, announced by your Majesty in the Despatch of the 31st of Oct., from the Secretary of State. The natural tendencies of Colonial Government favor the growth of a pernicious system of official extravagance. In the early history of a Colony its public officers receive their appointments from and have their emoluments fixed by, patrons in the metropolitan State—often but ill informed as to the labour required, or the slender resources afforded, by the province into which they are sent. When a Legislature is conceded, for a series of years it is influenced or controlled by those who ought to be subjected to its authority—but who, surrounding the Executive, and disposing its patronage—occupying the seats of one Branch, and through their friends and dependents, stimulating to extravagance, or neutralizing the efforts of the other, often denounce as disloyal every effort of those who seek to enforce economy and popular control; and weaken the attachment of the people, by making the Sovereign's name, and delegated authority, the sanction of every abuse. Nova-Scotia has had her share of these evils—she has them now; but her representatives hail with satisfaction the assurance given by your Majesty that they shall exist no longer—that while our Majesty graciously admits the right of this Assembly to "control and appropriate the whole public revenue arising in the Province," your Majesty, in spirit of that Constitution which guards alike the prerogative of the Crown and the property of the humblest of its subjects, also recognize it as our privilege and duty to fix the amount of remuneration which every public officer, maintained from those Revenues, should receive.

[The unsettled state of the Civil List Question is then adverted to, and while they have passed a Bill providing permanent Salaries for the Governor and Judges, they respectfully dissent from the views of H. M. Government, as to those of the Sec'y & Crown officers, the former of which they state is a great deal too high for the resources of the country, or the responsibility of the office. They then advert to the large sums already paid by permanent Acts, to a Master of the Rolls, and 4 other Judges; and that out of an annual revenue of £60,000 only about £15,000 remains for the internal improvement of the Country, after providing for all the expenses of the Government.]

The expenses of the Custom Department is then reviewed, which they state to be enormous, and they are of opinion that the whole system should be revised with a view to its reduction; and they request her Majesty's Government to allow the Provincial Revenue to be collected by the same Officers, with a view to saving the whole or a chief part of the expense of the present Excise department. They then recommend that all the Out Ports where there is a Custom House Officer, should be made Free Ports.]

In concluding this Address, the Assembly are bound to acknowledge the aid which they at all times receive from His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, in the prosecution, of measures intended for the general good. Most of the evils of which they complain have arisen from causes that existed before His Excellency came to the Colony, and it would be

expecting too much to require that they should be removed in a single year, under the most impartial administration.

From the Times.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY, APRIL 9.

Internal Postage.

Mr Young rose and presented the report of the Committee on this subject, of which he was chairman. The results, he said, to which they had come, merited the earnest and fixed attention of the Legislature. For very many years we had been in the habit of voting large sums, the annual amount having gradually increased from £900 to £1500 for the support of the Post Office. The application of this money and of the postage received, had been involved in a sort of mystery, which former Houses and Committees had been unable to penetrate. Last year the accounts were rendered in a more specific form, but still extremely complicated and difficult of comprehension. Being one of the committee, I determined if possible to master these accounts, so as to attain a clear perception of the principle on which they were constructed. The necessary explanations were readily furnished by Mr Howe, and after a full inquiry, I brought my own mind to the conclusion which is set out in the report of last year. It excited the curiosity of the House in no ordinary degree, it declared that the internal postage was equal or nearly so to the whole expense of the couriers, and therefore that the annual grant was unnecessary, in fact was paid into the military chest. So startling and unexpected a discovery was naturally received with some distrust, but the house passed some resolutions founded on it last year, and called the attention of the home government to it, through the medium of his Excellency. A copy of the report and documents annexed was sent to the general post Office, and we have their reply of last Sept. to Mr Stephen, the under Secretary of State. It is plain, Sir, that the question has not been fully understood, and one object of the report I have now presented, is to point out that the Post Office revenues of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, in place of being separate and distinct, have been mixed up so as to disturb the simplicity and accuracy of the accounts. Even with this disadvantage it is admitted that £1644 stg. was paid to the military chest in 1836, the neat revenue of the postage in Nova Scotia being only £714, and the balance therefore drawn from our contribution. Figures, Sir, cannot lie, they rest on mathematical truth, and once clearly apprehended, they set all contradiction at rest. Annexed to this report are abstracts of the accounts current rendered by the Deputy Post Master General for 1836 and 1837. I have prepared them with scrupulous accuracy and can vouch for their correctness. The first confirms in every particular the report of last year, the second, without troubling the House too much with details, exhibits the following results. The amount of postage on letters sent thither and paid for here, is £1251 sterling. The dead letters, as they are called, sent to England, that is, letters refused by parties or addressed to persons who cannot be found, was £625. This sum includes the dead letters of every kind from our own and other colonies, and two thirds of it only are computed as chargeable to Nova-Scotia, being £417 sterling, leaving of the above amount £834.

The salary of the deputy postmaster general was raised last year from £220 to £400 sterling—that of his assistant is £100 and there is an allowance of £50 for office rent, fuel, and stationary. These expenses come to £550, making the neat produce of the English