

DESPATCHES FROM THE COLONIAL OFFICE.

The *Nova Scotia* of the 31st ult., in commenting upon these Documents, says,—On Tuesday, Sir Rupert D. George brought down and delivered at the Bar of the House, three Despatches from Lord Glenelg, founded upon the proceedings of the Assembly at its last Session, and accompanied by a number of other papers, explanatory of the views and principles enunciated in them. We have thrown out the Reports of the proceedings, both in the Assembly and in the Legislative Council, which would have been furnished in this number, to make room for these Despatches, because we believe that from one end of Nova Scotia to the other they will be read with gratification and pride. The passages which we have printed in capitals and italic, will show the almost entire sanction of the departed Sovereign, and of our liege Lady Queen Victoria, and their Ministers, to the conduct of the Nova Scotia Reformers. The fact is that King William the Fourth was, Queen Victoria is, and Lord Glenelg and her Majesty's Ministers are, Nova Scotia Reformers, to an extent fully entitling them to be denounced as Rebels, and burnt in effigy by the officials at Annapolis. With what feelings must these folks read the declaration that the Sovereign, in acceding to the wishes of the Assembly, expressed in their Resolutions (the rescinding notwithstanding) "*makes no reluctant concession, but meets them with a cheerful assent, convinced that the greater part of the measures which they (THE REFORMERS) have suggested, will be conducive alike to the honour of his Crown, and the welfare of his faithful subjects, inhabiting this part of His Majesty's dominions.*" We have not much leisure for comment, but we cannot but observe that, as a Nova Scotian, we feel much more like "a man and Briton" than we did this time twelvemonth; as a Legislator, that we are placed in that position of honourable weight and respectability which the Constitution under which we live intended that the confidential servants of the country ought to occupy. As respects the details involved in these documents, we can only say to the people, rely for present on your friends—they will endeavour to do what is just and right, under the new circumstances in which they are placed.

MESSAGE.

The Lieutenant Governor lays before the House of Assembly copies of the Despatches to which he alluded in his opening speech, with copies of various other papers, either referred to in those Despatches, or connected with the subjects to which they relate.

Her Majesty having, as these communications amply testify, evinced her earnest solicitude to meet the views of the Assembly, by cheerfully consenting to place at the disposal of the Legislature, her Casual and Territorial Revenues, and the whole Crown Domain in this Province, in exchange for a Civil List; subject only to the conditions by which his late Majesty was pleased to qualify the corresponding concession in Lower Canada and New Brunswick, the Lieutenant Governor is persuaded that the Assembly will, with equal cheerfulness, acquiesce in the proposals which are now submitted to them by her command.

In bringing this subject before the Legislature, the Lieutenant Governor is instructed to advert to the settlement recently made with New Brunswick, as a precedent to be followed as far as local circumstances will permit.

Among the papers which accompany this Message, are letters from the Chief Justice and Puisne Judges of the Supreme Court, expressing their willingness to accept the rate of salary proposed to be affixed to their offices,

without fees, and the Lieutenant Governor earnestly trusts that the House will adopt Her Majesty's gracious suggestions in this respect, by making adequate provision for the independence of the Judges.

C. CAMPBELL.

Government-House, 29th Jan., 1833.

DESPATCHES.

(cont.)

Downing-Street, 30th April, 1837.

Sir,

I have received your Despatch of the 9th of March, in which you transmitted to me a Report of the proceedings of the Legislature of Nova Scotia since their meeting on the 21st of last January.

It is a ground of sincere satisfaction to me, that the House of Assembly rescinded the Resolutions which they adopted on the state of the Province; and I am happy to perceive, on reference to the Journals of the House, that the Resolutions are rescinded on the motion of the same Gentleman who had originally proposed them for the adoption of the House.

Hitherto mutual confidence has reigned, almost without interruption, between His Majesty's Government and the Representatives of the people of Nova Scotia, and I should deeply have regretted to be required to participate in a discussion conducted on either side in a different spirit. I hasten, therefore, to obviate, if possible, any such controversy, and to place you in possession of instructions for your guidance in the questions embraced in those Resolutions. It is the more incumbent on me to adopt this course because you prepare me, not indeed for the immediate revival of all the topics, the discussion of which had been suspended, but for an intimation of the desire of the Assembly for some alteration in the form of their existing Constitution.

I am happy to assure you that His Majesty, in acceding to the wishes, or what he conceives to be the wishes of the Assembly, **MAKES NO RELUCTANT CONCESSION, but meets them with a CHEERFUL ASSENT, CONVINCED THAT THE GREATER PART OF THE MEASURES WHICH THEY HAVE SUGGESTED WILL BE CONDUCTIVE ALIKE TO THE HONOUR OF HIS CROWN, AND THE WELFARE OF HIS FAITHFUL SUBJECTS, INHABITING THAT PART OF HIS DOMINIONS.**

1st.—His Majesty abstains from expressing any opinion on the questions debated between the two Houses of Provincial Legislature, with regard to the disuse of Divine Worship in the one, and the exclusion of the public from the Debates in the other. The King is persuaded that the very grave importance of those measures will be duly appreciated by either House, and that the interference of the Executive Government on such subjects would not only be misplaced, but injurious, as it could not fail to be regarded, and justly, as an encroachment on the peculiar privileges of the Legislature.

2dly.—You give me reason to infer that the Assembly desire such a change in the constitution of the Legislative Council, as would bring it into correspondence with the system at present in force in the Canadas and in New Brunswick. It is, of course, understood in the Province, that in all the British Colonies possessing Representative Assemblies, except the Canadas and New Brunswick, the Council is a single Chamber, called at different times to the discharge of Legislative functions, and to the duty of assisting in the administration of the Executive Government.

The separating this Body into two distinct Chambers, the one Legislative and the other Executive, is an experiment which was first tried in the Canadas by the Act of 1791, and

repeated in New Brunswick in the year 1832. So far as I have been able to judge, the result of this innovation has not been such as to exclude very serious doubts respecting its real usefulness.

It may well be questioned whether the maintenance of the existing constitution of the Council of Nova Scotia would not be the best mode of subjecting that Body to a direct and effective responsibility, and of securing to each of the two houses of Legislature its just weight and legitimate influence in the deliberations and measures of the other.

His Majesty, however, is graciously prepared to act on this question in conformity with such advice as shall be deliberately tendered to him by the Representatives of the people of Nova Scotia, because the King will not refuse to his people in that Province every participation in the Institutions of the other Provinces of British North America, which their Representatives may regard as conducive to the general good; and because his Majesty is convinced that their advice will be dictated by more exact and abundant knowledge of the wants and wishes of their constituents than any other persons possess or could venture to claim.

I willingly abstain from entering on the discussion of the alternative of an Elective Council suggested in one of the rescinded Resolutions; it is unnecessary for me to say more on this subject than to express my conviction that the suggestion was thrown out by the Assembly rather as a possible compromise of a supposed difficulty, than as expressing any fixed opinion that the evils of which they complain could be remedied only by so essential a change in the constitution.

3dly.—The objections made by the members of the Assembly to the actual composition of the council are *but too well founded*, and whether that Body shall retain its present form, or shall be resolved into two separate Chambers, it must undergo a very comprehensive change in its component parts.

It is now for the first time disclosed to me, and, as I have reason to think, it was never understood by any of my Predecessors in Office, that in this small Body there have been included several gentlemen united together in one Commercial Partnership, that the Members have been chosen almost without exception from the inhabitants of Halifax or its vicinity, and that the great majority of them are all members of one Religious community, which is stated to be least numerous of any of those into which the population of Nova Scotia is divided. It is impossible that distinctions so invidious should not be productive of serious discontent. Especially must this be the case when peculiarities of religious belief are assumed as the ground of admission or exclusion.

In the list which you propose to transmit for his Majesty's consideration, of Gentlemen qualified to sit in the Council of Nova Scotia, it will be your care to introduce the names of persons connected with all the great interests, Agricultural, Commercial, Manufacturing, or Professional, existing in the Province.

You will also, as far as possible, propose Candidates connected with all the great interests, Agricultural, Commercial, Manufacturing, or Professional, existing in the Province.

You will also, as far as possible, propose candidates connected not merely with the Capital, but with the other principal Towns and with the rural Districts.

Your recommendations will be altogether unimpaired by any consideration of the relation in which the proposed Councillors may stand towards the Church of England, or any other Society of Christians; it will indeed be your care to avoid as far as possible, such a selection as may even appear to have been dic-