

“so to do, but also to be *the only responsible Minister of the Colony*; he declares “that neither the House of Assembly nor the people who elect its members have “the right to call him to account for his public acts, whether they be good or evil; “that society here is in “an infant state;” that he will be answerable for his proceedings only in England; and that he considers it absolutely necessary that he should have full liberty to act in every case as he may think best, according to “the commands of the King and the Colonial Office, 4000 miles distant, and “where the wants and wishes of this community are but little known.

“That His Excellency has declared, *that to the opinion of the late Executive Council in favour of a responsible Local Government, and asking that the advice of a Council possessed at once of the confidence of the Sovereign and the people’s representatives should be adhered to in the administration of public affairs he can never subscribe. On the contrary, he did not feel himself bound to consult the Executive Council on the affairs of the country.*

“That while His Excellency has thus resolved to hold the powers entrusted “to him by his Sovereign, to reduce British subjects to a state of abject vassalage, “and deny them the advantages of the Constitution and the forms which secure “and maintain it, *the public lands made valuable by their industry are being sold or given away to favorites, and the proceeds of land sales expended without the authority of law; large sums are annually raised in a variety of forms from the people and expended without their consent, and seldom to their advantage; dissension is kept up by the payment of particular priesthoods out of the public revenue; the Clergy Reserves are being alienated, and the proceeds sent to England instead of being applied to educational purposes; the speedy and satisfactory administration of justice, declared by His Majesty to be “the first and most sacred duty of a sovereign,” is in a great measure neglected, and the nomination of Justices of the Peace left in the hands of whoever may happen to be the favourite courtier at the Government House for the time being.*

“*That the public debt and interest thereon has been of late years greatly augmented, and that the financial condition of the Colony is becoming daily more and more embarrassing; and that your Honorable House deserves the gratitude of the country for your unwearied industry, in enquiring into, and endeavouring to remove abuses, in passing useful and salutary laws, and in addressing His Majesty, calling his attention to and praying for the removal of those grievances from which the country has long and ineffectually sought relief. That the very great expense of each Legislative Session is chiefly caused by the want of a cordial co-operation with your Honorable House, on the part of successive Lieutenant Governors, and by the systematic rejection, by the Legislative Council, of those bills and measures generally and most earnestly desired for the public benefit.* The experience of nearly half a century enables us to declare our entire concurrence in the opinions you have expressed “during the present session, “that the Legislative Council, as “at present constituted, has utterly failed, and never can be made to answer the ends for which “it was created.” *So great are the objections of that honourable body to promote the public welfare that even the bill of last session for the destruction of the Wolves which infest and injure many parts of the province, was not allowed to pass into a law.*

“We beg to remind your Honourable House of *the inclement season of the year at which the late County Elections were held; the many miles travelled through the worst of roads by the reformers to effect the return of your members; the sacrifices of a pecuniary and personal nature by some, and the uncommon exertions made by others of your constituents, who reasonably expected thereby to secure cheap and honest government; an impartial administration of Justice; the education of their children, and the improvements of the roads and bridges, in all which they have been most lamentably disappointed, by means of our Lieut. Governors and their Legislative Councils, to whose ruinous proceedings you have not hitherto offered that constitutional resistance the country had a right to expect.*