

increasing and apparently irreconcilable disunion between the Governor and the Legislature of the Province. In considering this question, it may at once be admitted that there are conveniences attending the present system which ought not to be undervalued in a country where the relations of the government and the people are not held together by the same sort of ancient ties which unite the various classes of society in the parent state. But these conveniences may be bought at too dear a rate; and the experience of the last few years has convinced His Majesty's Government that a different policy is not only expedient, but indispensable. In order, however, to render the change effectual to the great object of restoring harmony and concord, it must be complete. To give up part of the duties in question to the disposal of the Legislature, and at the same time to reserve the remainder at the disposal of the Crown, as a matter of right, would on the one hand, be a distinct admission of the principle that the present mode of appropriation is defective; whilst, on the other, it would effectually prevent the concession from being either gracious or conclusive. Its ungraciousness would be in proportion to its inefficiency; and the arrangement never could be final, so long as any part of the obnoxious practice were retained.

The principle, therefore, upon which His Majesty's Government is of opinion that you ought to proceed in endeavouring to settle this question, is derived from the practice of this country, as recently exemplified in that part of His Majesty's Speech from the Throne upon the opening of the present Session, which refers to the Civil List. His Majesty there gives up all his interest in his hereditary revenues, and in some other sources of His Royal income, to the free disposal of Parliament; and His Majesty asks in return such a Civil List as Parliament may deem adequate for that important object. It is not attempted to balance an exact amount of the revenue given up against the amount of the Civil List which the Legislature is invited to grant; but, on the contrary, whilst His Majesty freely gives up His interest in the revenues which are thus left to Parliamentary disposal, the amount of the Civil List is left to be arranged upon principles in which it is intended to combine a reasonable economy with a just consideration of what is due to the honour, the dignity, and the comfort of the Crown.

There is something in this mode of proceeding at once so simple in itself, so free from future difficulties and disagreements, so consistent with the King's honour and the dutiful attachment of the people, that the King's Government cannot doubt that a proposition, similar in principle, and emanating from the same feelings, will not fail to be received by His Majesty's faithful subjects, the Legislature of Lower Canada, as an undoubted proof of His Majesty's paternal anxiety for their welfare, his desire to consult their feelings, and his confidence in the loyalty of his North American subjects.

The instruction, therefore, which I am now commanded by His Majesty to convey to you is, that you should, at the earliest convenient period, make a communication to the Legislature to the following effect:—

That His Majesty, taking into consideration the best mode of contributing to the prosperity and contentment of his faithful subjects of the Province of Lower Canada, places at the disposal of the Legislature all His Majesty's interest in those taxes which are now levied in the Province by virtue of different Acts of the British Parliament, and which are appropriated by the Treasury, under His Majesty's commands, together with all fines and forfeitures levied under the authority of such Acts. That His Majesty, relying on the liberality and justice of the Legislature of Lower Canada, invites them to consider the propriety of making some settled provision for such portion of the expenses of the civil government of the Province as may, upon examination, appear to require an arrangement of a more permanent nature than those supplies which it belongs to the Legislature to determine by annual votes.

That His Majesty has directed an estimate to be prepared and laid before them of the sum which may be required for that purpose; and that, in directing the preparation of that estimate, His Majesty has been guided by a wish never absent from his heart, to call upon His faithful subjects for no other supply than such as may appear to be required for the due execution of those services which it is proposed to charge upon the Civil List.

His Majesty concedes the disposal of these revenues with cordial good will, and cannot doubt that it will be met with a reciprocal feeling by the representatives of an attached and loyal people.

Such being the nature of the communication which it will be your duty to make in the King's name to the Legislature, I have now to submit to you an estimate of that which it is proposed to concede, and that which the Assembly may be invited to grant as a Civil List.

The revenues to be given up are as follows; viz.

Customs' duties levied under the 14 Geo. 3, c. 88, after deducting a portion for Upper Canada, upon an average of two years	£. 28,336
Licenses under ditto and 41 Geo. 3	2,764
Fines and forfeitures, average of two years	599
Total	£. 31,699

The Civil List to be proposed to the adoption of the Legislature should be divided like the Civil List in this country, into separate classes, with a definite expenditure assigned to each class.