

viz., "that three of the members of the Executive Council should receive salaries, as such, to an amount to be agreed upon (I had thought of 300*l.* per annum), and that these three individuals, together with the Attorney and Solicitor-general (forming the working quorum of the Council), should be the only officers of the Executive Administration who should be called upon to retire, upon the political party to which they adhered ceasing to command a majority in the Assembly." I was restrained from proposing the extension of this principle to the Colonial Secretary, during the continuance in office of the present incumbent, in consequence of the obstacle which appeared to be presented by the considerable amount of official income which that meritorious officer has so long received, and the consequent difficulty which might be found in providing for him anything like an adequate amount of retired allowance.

It has, however, occurred to me, that both a retired and an active officer might, perhaps, be paid from the aggregate amount of salary and emoluments now received by Sir Rupert George, of which, having held his present offices for upwards of 30 years, and ably and zealously discharged their duties, it appears not unreasonable that not less than two-thirds, say 1,000*l.* per annum, should be assigned to him as a pension during his life, and the remainder be paid to the person who may be appointed to replace him in his several offices, the permanent amount of these salaries being determined by the Legislature at some future period.

— No. 10. —

(No. 54.)

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor Sir *John Harvey*, K. C. B., to Earl *Grey*, dated Government-House, Halifax, 29 January 1848.

(Received 14 February 1848.)

HEREWITH I have the honour to transmit a copy of the speech with which I opened the first session of the 19th General Assembly of this province, on the 22d instant, together with copies of the Addresses from the Legislative Council and House of Assembly in answer, and my replies.

Your Lordship will perceive, that to the Address of the Assembly is appended a declaration of want of confidence on the part of the majority of the Assembly (29 to 22) in the members of my present council.

Having convened a meeting of that body on the following day, the first act on their part was the respectful tender to me of their seats as executive councillors; and on the part of Mr. Johnston and Mr. Dodd of their offices of Attorney and Solicitor-generals.

The documents embodying these resignations are herewith transmitted, together with a copy of a communication addressed by me to them, thanking them for their services; and, in inviting your Lordship's attention to the letters of Messrs. Johnston and Dodd, and with reference to the very natural expression of their hopes that their future claims to professional advancement may not be affected by the surrender which they have felt themselves called upon to make of their respective offices to considerations of public duty, it may only be necessary for me to recall to your Lordship's recollection the terms in which I have already spoken of the professional character and claims of Mr. Johnston, on an occasion when, from my own appreciation of his high character and claims, I felt myself justified, without his knowledge, to recommend him for judicial preferment in another colony; and of Mr. Dodd, when I submitted his name to your Lordship as a candidate for the existing vacancy of puisne judge in Nova Scotia; to satisfy your Lordship of the high estimation in which I hold both these gentlemen.

Under the circumstances, however, in which I am at present placed, the entire impossibility of my now entering into any pledges towards them, beyond such as may be implied by what I have already said, must be manifest to your Lordship.

No. 10.
Lieut.-Governor
Sir John Harvey
to Earl Grey.
29 January 1848.