

Advantage or disadvantage of removing present site of Colonial Building !

The North front of the Building will not come nearer that within six feet of Duckworth-street, and as that street stands there at a height of 33 feet above the foundation, it will be readily seen that no time should be lost in building a Retaining Wall to support this immense mass, both for the public safety and to defend the building, and also similar Retaining Walls upon the Eastern and Western sides, and these Retaining Walls are not at all comprehended in my Contract, which is strictly confined to the House itself; the expense of these would be about £1000, and if the expense of Parapets and Gates were added it would be nearly double that amount. Now if the whole space were left for a Market House, these Retaining Walls may form part of the building; and if the site of the Colonial House be removed, of course with reference to that no such expense would be incurred, there would be a considerable saving, besides which the greater part of the Mason Work buried under Church Hill and Duckworth-street would be unnecessary on a level site, and may well be dispensed with, as being of very little use to the Legislative Chambers. As to the Market House, my Contract only speaks of a "temporary" one, and I cannot see that much advantage would arise from it. The saving of Mason Work, &c., would enable us to defray the expense of excavations and of removing materials, and as being confined by Duckworth-street, our Portico on that side would be very poor—not more than five feet wide; on a less restricted position we could afford to double that depth, adding much to the character of the Edifice, extending the space for the Legislative Chambers and further embellishing the flank elevation, and improving the front entrance by a spacious flight of steps;—none of which could be accomplished at Duckworth-street.

PATRICK KOUGH, Esq., examined :—

My opinion is that the site at Church Hill is not calculated for a Colonial Building—as not at all desirable, for the following reasons :—Being so much lower than Duckworth-street, the most conspicuous part of the building will not be seen. The space of ground too limited, and utterly precluding the uttermost impossibility of having a Market House also on the same site. Thinks it a most eligible site for a Market House to be devoted to that purpose alone. Thinks if a more suitable site for a Colonial Building can be obtained, it would be advisable to reserve said site altogether for a Market Place. The frontage of site is rather short of 100 feet from E. to W., and more than 100 feet from S. to N.; about 30 feet depression. Is aware that a Contract has been entered into for building a Colonial Building on this site. Is of opinion that it would be practicable to make an arrangement with the Contractor whereby neither the Public or the Contractor would be losers. In first place his excavations are made and his material on the site. In the former instance he will have to make new excavations, and he would have to remove his material again. That the plan of the building would be greatly modified. Thinks that a site near Government House would be a more desirable site. A building on that site would require more ornamental work on the outside, but saving of expense in the building not being so extensive, diminished height, &c., would meet extra expense in this particular. Should the present site of Colonial Building be removed it would be necessary to have Specifications and new Contract entered into for a Market House separate from Colonial Building. £6000 to £7000 would be required for a Market House and place. This sum will altogether depend upon the style of architecture, &c. If Church Hill was levelled from Water-street to Duckworth-street, &c., the present plans would have to be altered, and the front made to East, now the front is intended to be North. To level Church Hill it would in my opinion take say from £300 to £500. Even if Church Hill was taken for the purpose, I do not think it would be desirable to have the two Buildings in conjunction. As regards expense does not think any greater expense would accrue to the public, in case of a Market House being built on Church Hill, the excavations and Materials now there would answer for that purpose.

SURVEYOR GENERAL'S LETTER, ACCOMPANYING PLAN OF THE TOWN.

[COPY.]

SURVEYOR GENERAL'S OFFICE,
4th April, 1846. }

SIR,—At the close of the last Legislative Session an Address was presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that he would direct the Surveyor General to make a Survey and Plan of the Town,