

to the provincial parliament by his excellency sir John Coape Sherbrooke, your committee deem it their duty to examine how far that situation appears to have been altered by the message of his excellency, the earl of Dalhousie, governor-in-chief of this province, bearing date the 6th February, 1822.

His excellency Sir John Coape Sherbrooke, at the opening of the session in 1818, acknowledges no other expenditure in this province than that which is necessary for the support of the civil government, and calls on the provincial legislature to make provision for the same, without restriction. His excellency the earl of Dalhousie, in his message of the 6th of February, establishes two species of expenses, distinct and separate, one "in support of his Majesty's civil government, and of the administration of justice," with which his excellency declares himself charged, to the exclusion of the legislature; and the other, to defray "such local establishments, and objects of public charge, as form no part of His Majesty's civil government, and are not connected with the administration of justice." The latter portion is left to the provincial parliament.

Having applied to this message the attention the more serious, inasmuch as that official document puts in question the dearest rights of the provincial legislature, and of the house of assembly more especially; and inasmuch as his excellency has already several times referred the house of assembly to that message, your committee are of opinion—

That the house of assembly can not in any manner, acknowledge the principles laid down in that message—

That they can not acknowledge the distinction which is made between the expenses of the civil government, and those of local objects, foreign to the civil government—

That they can not acknowledge in the governor-in-chief the right of applying to objects, which he declares foreign to the civil government of this province, and to the administration of justice, the monies specially destined to these objects—

That they can not acknowledge in the governor-in-chief the right of applying any portion of the monies levied in this province, and destined for defraying the expenses of the administration of justice, and of the civil government of this province, without being thereunto authorised by the provincial legislature.

From this view of the subject, and the interpretation which your committee have given to the intention of His Majesty's government, when the house was called upon to provide for all the expenses of the civil government in 1818, your committee have stated the actual funds of the province, taking as a basis the balance as stated by the inspector-general of public provincial accounts, as at the disposal of the legislature at the end