

into this house; and, through its creatures—its unworthy creatures—attempts to deprive me of my good name. But, Mr Speaker, strong in the purity of my conduct, and relying fully on the eventual supremacy of justice, I have no doubt but that I shall be able, not only to turn aside the bolt so insidiously, so unjustly, directed against me, but to repel it, with double force, on the heads of my assailants.

I have held the situation of District Surgeon for more than six years: I have performed the laborious duties with zeal and unremitting attention, so as to have procured for me the entire approbation of all.—Not a whisper of complaint, during the whole period has been heard against me. On the 31st of March I received from the Colonial Secretary the following letter:—

Secretary's Office, 31st March, 1834.

SIR,—I am directed by the Governor to acquaint you, that the situation of District Surgeon under Government is abolished, and will cease from and after this day.

I have the honour to be, sir,  
Your most obt. humble servt.

JAMES CROWDY.

To William Carson, Esq., M.D.  
District Surgeon.

I am thus deprived of a situation on which I had naturally calculated, at a moment's notice, without a single expression of approval or disapprobation. Any person reading such a dismissal would naturally suppose that I had neglected my duty, or committed some professional error. No such thing!—In that anxiety which so distinguishes his Most Gracious Majesty for the security of all his loyal subjects, he has appointed a Council, composed of respectable inhabitants, to whom are delegated the privilege of counselling the Governor on all important matters; and in the 32nd article of the instructions there are these strong positive words—"You shall not suspend any of the Judges, Justices of the Peace, or other officers or ministers, without a good and sufficient cause." The knowledge of this positive instruction induced me immediately to address to the Colonial Secretary this letter:

St. John's, Newfoundland,  
March 31st, 1834.

SIR,—I am honoured with the information by the direction of his Excellency the Governor, that the situation of District Surgeon is abolished from this day. May I be permitted to inquire, as the information essentially interests me, if such is done by the recommendation of His Majesty's Honourable Council or by the General Assembly of this Island?

I have the honour to be, sir,  
Your obt. humble servt.,  
WILLIAM CARSON,

To THE HON. JAMES CROWDY,  
Colonial Secretary.

On the 1st of April, I received this reply from the Colonial Secretary:

Secretary's Office, 1st April, 1834.

SIR,—In reply to your letter of yesterday, I am directed by the Governor to acquaint you, that the Imperial Treasury ceased from the 31st ult., to maintain such Colonial Institutions as that to which the District Surgeon has been attached. The officers dependant on them, as a matter of course, fall to the ground.

I have the honour to be, sir,  
Your most obt. servt.,  
JAMES CROWDY,

WM. CARSON ESQ., M.D.

The natural conclusion was that the letter of the 31st March was a circular which had been addressed to all holding office under the Crown, for they have been all maintained by the Imperial Treasury, and that they of course had all fallen to the ground equally with that of the District Surgeon. But, Mr Speaker, what was my surprise on learning that I was the only individual so honoured! That no other officer had had such a notice. I then felt convinced that I was singled out for destruction—that I was selected as a proper object to sacrifice to the will of arbitrary power—to despotic sway—to individual will. And I prepared myself for the sacrifice. I felt that in dignity, which all upright men feel, at an act of injustice; but that indignation is doubly aggravated when injustice flows from an arbitrary act of an unjust Government. However, I endeavoured to assume as much as I could, under such an act of oppression and insult, the calmness of a philosopher, I was passive.—On the 26th of April, a medical gentleman called upon and informed me, that he had received instructions from the Governor to take charge of the Hospital. This I considered an outrageous insult on my private feelings, on my professional character; strictly speaking, my appointment was a municipal appointment—it was not an appointment under the crown; and here the Governor acted only as trustee for the public; he is, therefore, amenable to the same rules and laws, and is equally as responsible as any other trustee. Under feelings strongly excited—for insult and injustice when proceeding from power are much more aggravating than from a private individual—I petitioned his Excellency.

To this petition I have had no reply.—The right of petition is universally acknowledged. No person is to be obstructed—none to be damnified in the exercise of this right. Have I not been obstructed? is there not an endeavour to damnify me in the due exercise of it by the proceedings of this house? On Friday the 2d of May, I was much hurt in consequence of a fall from my horse; I attended only a short time in the house, on that day; on Saturday the 3d I was too unwell. On Saturday his Excellency was pleased to communicate to this house my petition, with a complaint that I, as a member of this house, or that the house itself, had encroached upon his just prerogative. Mr Locke has defined prerogative to be a discretionary power of acting for the public good? if that discretionary power be abused to private injury or public detriment it becomes an unconstitutional power. Is the exercise of his Excellency's assumed prerogative calculated to bring in a power for the general good? I stated in the petition, that the Legislative Assembly had passed a vote of two hundred pounds a year, as usual, for the current year, for medicine, and medical attendance, under an understanding that the duties were to be performed by the same individual. This is the disputed fact, and the foundation of the business. I was chairman of the committee of finance. Their report was published, and gave general satisfaction. In this Assembly, there are no official persons representing in any character the executive, therefore, all

are equally responsible for the performance of an especial duty, and from my being chairman of the committee of finance, I took upon myself the duty, which I now deeply regret, of moving the different items of the estimate sent down to the house by the executive.—On moving the very first item to the Clerk of the Council, the individual—the Colonial Secretary—was particularly mentioned by name, although not expressed in the resolution. When I came to the Clerk of the Supreme Court, as the Committee of finance, recommended, that the duties of the Clerk of the Supreme and Circuit Courts should be performed by one individual, and that all fees attached to either office should be accounted for, and paid into the hands of the Treasurer for general purposes—it led to a long and animated discussion; I was broadly accused of wishing to deprive some meritorious officers of their means of support. I declared I had no such wish. I did not desire, for this year at least, to diminish the income of any individual holding office; and Mr Blaikie and the Sheriff were particularly named. It was then agreed upon, that the salaries for offices should be voted the same as set down in the estimate presented to the house by his Excellency, and proceeded accordingly.

When the item in which the situation of medical attendant is stated, was moved for, I was absent from the house. The item stands thus,

Paupers, Orphans, Bastards	£896
Sick paupers	569
Medical attendance and Medicine	200
Passages	60
Total	£1725

When I again attended, I learned that the sum of £1725, the exact sum in the estimate, was voted; I could not but consider my situation for the year, at least, secure. When I petitioned his Excellency, I knew neither, more or less than this. I may, or may not, that is still a question, have violated the privileges of this house in my statement to his Excellency. It appears it was erroneous; but I most firmly believed what I stated in my petition, to be true; I had no wish to attempt to impose what was not true on the representative of my sovereign. It would have been the height of folly to have attempted to do so. I only acted as a private individual. It was calculated to injure no person. I violated no law—I did no wrong; and I beg to assure this house that I intended no offence to any part of the Legislature. Subsequently to the first vote of £1725, the words and character of that vote have been altered, to suit the views of the political parties, and for the purpose of aiding in prostrating my character, and my interests. The communication of his Excellency to the house, I believe was on Saturday the 3d of May; from indisposition I did not attend the house until Tuesday, and did not know of the communication till eleven o'clock on Tuesday forenoon, when I heard it by accident. I was not informed of the circumstance either by the executive or by the house. I found a strong sensation against me, and high ground assumed by that party who are suspected to be under executive influence.