

who had been tried, by re-electing them; those individuals may now be called the persons of their choice, and the privilege of exercising that choice was considered an important and valuable one; and yet, had the Electors been apprised that no provision would be made in future for their expenses, and that several of those persons would be unable to serve them by reason of their lack of means, the choice would have been *restrained*; those who had always proved vigilant and serviceable, would thus have been disqualified, and the *freedom* of Election would have been turned into a *constraint* to seek among untried men of wealth for those who could best afford to pay their expenses; and as wealth does not ensure to its possessor even *one* of the most essential qualifications, ignorance, carelessness, and stupidity would, in very many instances, have been unavoidably substituted for intelligence, attention, and activity. Again, it may be observed, that as the lower House is intended as the *popular* representation, and by far the greater proportion of constituents belong to the middle and lower classes, the abolition of pay, and the consequent restriction of choice to the upper class, would cause a severance of those ties which now hold the representatives down to the people; the Democratical would rise to, and merge in, the Aristocratical branch; the equilibrium distance would be lost to the lower, and gained in the upper House; and thus the constitutional balance or counterweight would be virtually destroyed.

With these views we must be forced to the conclusion, that provision for the expenses of the House of Assembly, under the present circumstances of the Province, *is essential to the existence of the rights and privileges of the Provincial Electors, and that its abolition would very materially injure the popular representation.* For many years past it has been usual, at the *first* session of a *new House*, to pass a *Bill*, providing for the expenses of the Speaker and Members of the Assembly *during the continuance of the House.* In conformity with this custom, a Bill was passed at