

the amount, and the security of the retiring allowance to which he was entitled under his Lordship's despatch of 31st March, 1847. This delay was denied, and on his continued refusal to resign, until the Colonial Secretary could be consulted, he was removed by Sir John Harvey, and his removal gazetted here. Earl Grey, in a despatch dated in March, 1848, confirms the act of the Provincial Government, but informs Sir John Harvey he had no power to remove, but in point of form, should only have suspended. Yet, sir, in a case thus distinctly before Downing Street authorities, Mr. Hawes, the Under Secretary, on the 12th May in that year, in answer to a question put in the House of Commons, by Mr. Cochrane, whether Sir Rupert D. George had been removed from office, replied that Sir Rupert George had resigned his office.

Again, sir, when a petition from Nova Scotia was presented in the house of Lords, Earl Grey asserted that of the hundred Magistrates alleged to have been removed, forty were dead—a statement which obviously embarrassed Lords Stanley and Brougham, who advocated the memorial, and compelled them to say, that, much as they might condemn the removal, they could not justify such a misrepresentation. Yet, sir, the statement of the petitioners, was true; and Earl Grey's was not true. The number of the excluded Magistrates had been ascertained by excluding from the calculation all who were known to have died, or left the country, and more than one hundred were found to remain after that exclusion. When it is recollected that the Provincial Government had been requested in the Assembly to furnish a return of the names of the excluded Magistrates, and had refused to do so, the injustice that has been practised becomes more flagrant.

On hearing of the aspersions on their character, some of the petitioners residing in Halifax immediately transmitted to Earl Grey a letter setting him right as to the facts, and in effect requesting him to mention in Parliament the vindication which they gave. He did not do so, and the letter was laid aside on the ground of a technical informality in its transmission. It does seem that—magnanimity or generosity, I will not say—but that the commonest principles of justice and ingenuousness demanded from Earl Grey some vindication of gentlemen he had been the instrument of publicly maligning, without reference to the mode in which the communication had reached him; and allow me to say that you cannot find in Halifax gentlemen of more unblemished reputation—more respectable position in society or higher sense of the value of character than among those who sought at Earl Grey's hand, the act of justice he saw fit to withhold; and do I go too far in saying that when he withheld the explanation that candour demanded, he adopted the mis-statement which at first, it may be, he was but the instrument of inadvertently making.

Again, Sir, Earl Grey stated, as a reason for abandoning his engagement in the case of Sir R. D. George's arrears, that Sir Rupert had not remonstrated against the act; whereas in fact, as appears from our

own journals, not only was that not the case, but Earl Grey considered at large and answered the memorial complaining of the Civil List Bill in not providing for the arrears with Sir Rupert D. George's signature to it, in the very despatch in which he made this assertion. With such singular carelessness does the noble Lord who now governs the Colonies deal with his statements of facts, when depriving an officer of money justly earned; and so easily did he find reasons for disregarding his solemn pledge. To this place belong also the cases of the arrears and of Mr. Fairbanks, but it is unnecessary to dwell on them further.

There was a time when the British Colonist met the American citizen with confidence. His boast of the rapid progress of his country was met by our well-founded pride in the nicer moral feeling—the higher toned sentiment of public justice—the more elevated principles in dealing with public servants that monarchy creates; and English justice, and the honor of the Crown, were felt to belong to the Colonies, not less than to the Imperial State. How is it now? Were a Nova Scotian hardy enough to venture on such an argument, the American would point to Mr. Fairbanks, and refer to the case of the arrears, and ask what Republican statesman had ever so violated his predecessor's acts and his own declarations, or so abandoned the rights of officers and citizens committed to his trust.—He might tell you the repudiation of the British Secretary of State threw into the shade the Pennsylvanian, and scornfully ask where slumbered the spirit of Sydney Smith? No, Sir! The day of sentiment is past.—Duty will be the rule of conduct, and the people of Nova Scotia are not and will not be unmindful of the duty of allegiance; but they will remember also their duties as men—yes! as christian men, to themselves, their families, and their country; and when change shall be made necessary, if it should ever be made necessary—for the happiness of themselves—for their children's well-being—for the moral and efficient government of their country, they will not sacrifice the greater duties to the less, nor surrender to a name the most enduring obligations; and when that hour comes, if ever it should come—they will cast from them the bullying despatches of a Secretary of State with the contempt such insulting ~~men~~ deserve from Freemen!

Should this duty ever be enforced on Nova Scotians, may the day be distant; and may it not arrive till I shall have ceased to be an actor on the stage. But what the future may demand is for the future to reveal. We have the tangible realities of the present to deal with; for to use the language of the author I have already quoted—"The present time, youngest born of Eternity, child and heir of all the past times, with their good and evil—and parent of all the future, is ever a new era to the thinking man, and comes with new questions, and significance, however common place it look! To know it, and what it bids us do, is ever the sum of Knowledge for us all."

*The journals*