

formation, the House would be glad to know the contents?

A. I stand here as his Majesty's servant: my colleagues next to me in office, who have given their opinions as well as myself to his Majesty, are within the Bar. When an Advocate or Counsellor gives his opinion, it is the property of his client. His Majesty is in possession of my opinion. If this House does me the high honor of being desirous to know my sentiments, such as they are (and they are very free ones) the House will then address his Majesty to lay my opinion before the House. If the House will not agree to that address, my sentiments must remain deposited with his Majesty, in his great wisdom, where they now most happily rest.

Q. When somebody moved to have all the papers laid before the House, the motion was over-ruled, on the ground that we might have complete information at the Bar. I fear we shall not have it where we wish it, and were bidden to expect it.—What is the sum and conclusion of that opinion?

A. In a question so extensive, and which involved every possible consideration of policy, and very little of law, I drew up my opinion with all that modesty and diffidence which became me. The danger of positiveness in speculative opinions is too obvious to every man of a right mind. The more I viewed the subject on every side, the more difficulties occurred to me. I weighed all facts and reasonings in a true balance, without bias to any man or any party, but found it hard, after the whole result of my enquiries, to fix decisively what the system of law ought to be for a people so remote from home, of whose manners and wants we know so little. My method of proceeding was, I collected all facts as represent-

ed to me, and as far as other persons, who well knew the Colony by having been in it, were agreed in their reports made to the King's Government. I then brought all the facts and probable reasonings together in one general point of view, for the assistance of my two colleagues in office, that they might form an easier decision on their part. I drew indeed my own conclusions, but they were not positive, but open to better reasonings. I therefore, through the whole, adopted the stile and manner of that which Cicero calls the *deliberativum genus dicendi*; I submitted every thing to his Majesty's wisdom in Council, aided by opinions and arguments of much higher authority than any which I could offer.

Q. Can the gentleman recollect any parts of the opinion which he gave?

A. I answered before, that doubtless if this House will address his Majesty, they will have the whole of it before you: I have no objection, I am sure, for my part; but my memory will not serve me to repeat so extensive a work.

Q. Does it agree in substance, or part, with the Bill now depending before your House?

A. I know nothing of such a Bill officially.—A printed paper, with a title of a Bill relative to the government of Quebec, was put into my hands only two days ago, by a friend accidentally. Not having the honor to be a Member of this House, I cannot, according to the rules of it, take notice of any thing proposed within its walls. If the House were pleased to refer the Bill to me, I should desire to take it home, to read it with great care and deliberation. And if I were within the Bar, as I am now without, I would give my