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‘It grieves me much, replied the peer again,  
Who speaks so well, should ever speak in vain.’

POPE.

## REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS...*Concluded.*

The act of the 14th Geo. III cap. 88, embraces nearly the whole of the expenses of the civil government, the details whereof must be superintended by the provincial legislature, more particularly since it has been especially charged therewith, otherwise, what means the formal offer of the House of assembly of 1810, to charge itself with the whole expense of the civil government, then so violently opposed, on the acknowledgment of that important right in favour of the provincial legislature by his Majesty, after a consideration of eight years? Would the unimportant matter of *local establishments*, (a term then unknown in our official relations with the government, and which would in vain be sought for in the speech of Sir John Cope Sherbrooke, & of his grace the duke of Richmond,) have merited the refusal experienced by this house in 1810, such a long consideration on the part of his Majesty’s ministers, and the gratifying assurance of his royal highness, the Prince Regent’s satisfaction with what he deigns to call our “*liberality*?”

Another proof occurs, in support of what your committee have just advanced, demonstrating that all the revenues of the province are at the disposal of the legislature. It is as positive as it is recent: it is contained in an official document laid before this house on the 7th inst. which signifies to this house the approbation of his excellency the earl of Dalhousie, governor-in-chief of this province, respecting a petition presented to this house, for the remission of certain duties of *quint*. This matter then is also within the competence of the legislature.

Thus the opinion that the provincial legislature alone has the right of disposing of all the revenues raised in this province, rests upon public law—upon the unvarying & uniform interpretation of this house upon the private & public acts of the governor of this province since 1818—and lastly, upon a final judgment in the last resort, a solemn act of parliament.

Having considered the situation of the provincial legislature, since 1818, in consequence of his Majesty’s instructions signified