

THE PROTESTANT AND EVANGELICAL WITNESS.

The Evangelical Council have, therefore, resolved that constitutional authority in giving such advice to His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor.

Bon. Col. GRAY—it was not to be supposed that the Lieutenant-Governor had no ample correspondence to justify the language he had used, and it was not customary to discuss correspondence pending the negotiation of preliminary such correspondence might involve the members of the Legislature, and its premature publication might materially retard the progress of the negotiations. It might suit the Leader of the Opposition to take up the time of the House in making specific about the delay in the appointment of the Commission, but if he consulted the interests of the people, as he did his own, he would show his patriotism by not obstructing the efforts which were made for the substantial benefit of the people. If the Duke of Newcastle had been present, he would have proceeded with any measure in view of the Commission, but what did he propose to substitute for the Commissioners? He had, which had proved long ago to be impracticable. The hon. gentleman had referred to the suggestion of the Duke of Newcastle, that the object of the Colonial Minister to the House, in referring the Commission to their resolutions. It was the intention of the House to provide a course to acquire into the relations between landlord and tenant, with a view to ameliorate the condition of the latter, without interfering with the legal rights of the former, and to propose what they might consider a fair and equitable mode of adjustment.

The Duke of Newcastle had said that the Government must be free, and the Governor said that no wish was entertained to fetter the action of the Commission, which he hoped would keep in view the objects suggested by the House. The delay which has taken place was not extreme, nor by any means unprecedented. Mr. Cooper, had been promising the people that he would do all that he could for them; and it was a wonder how long he could have waited so long. Eight or nine years since, Responsible Government was to settle the Land Question; while it was but nine months ago that he had proposed the resolutions, and good reasons could be assigned for the delay which had taken place.

It was necessary that the proprietors should be satisfied, and the Duke of Newcastle had given reasons to be cautious in dealing with any measure emanating from the Island.

The correspondence on the subject of the Land Bill had taught the Colonial Minister to proceed with caution.

He had told his constituents that the proprietaries were good, and had been received by our own legislature, and purchased by the Western Assembly that he would do all that he could for them to obtain favorable terms for the tenants; and when the hon. member, Mr. Sinclair, stated on a previous occasion that he would not ask favors of the proprietors, he could have stated that he would ask from any party boons to ameliorate the condition of the great body of the inhabitants.

Before moving the following resolution in amendment, he will, that the communication stating the Commission would be appointed.

Whereas, by a Despatch from his Grace the Duke of Newcastle, bearing date 6th September last, in answer to the Address from the House of Assembly, on the appointment of Commissioners to inquire into, and report upon, the Land Tenures in this Colony, his Grace was pleased to state that he had opened a communication with the Proprietors on the subject of the desired appointment of one Commissioner.

And whereas, although, from unavoidable causes, there referred to, at the date of the said Despatch such progress had not been made in the matter as this House had hoped for: Resolved, nevertheless, that, inasmuch as every party who has been in communication with the Duke of Newcastle, has given his assent to the appointment of one Commissioner, and whereas, although, from

time to time, the Duke of Newcastle had been led to believe that the Duke of Newcastle had supported him in his action, this House, in accordance with every party's desire, will give effect, at the earliest period that the circumstances of the case will admit of, to the prayer of the Address.

Hon. Mr. WHITAKER.—The resolution of Hon. Mr. Coles was on an incorrect statement of facts made by the head of the Government to his advisers, to the effect that the Duke of Newcastle had not been consulted.

There was in the documents before the House nothing to justify the statement, and the resolution goes to show that there was no foundation for it. The Leader of the Government had stated that the delay was not reasonable.

(H. Mr. Whelan) did not complain of the delay which had been caused by every party.

Mr. COLES.—The Despatch had not been sent down at that time.

Hon. Mr. HAYWARD.—The hon. member took office on the 23d of April.

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Hon. Mr. HAYWARD.—But the hon. member mentioned the contents by retaining office after it had been laid before the country. It was not the *ipsa dies* of Earl Grey, but the authoritative declaration of Her Majesty's Government. That was the charter under which the leader of the Opposition took office, and as he denied having done so, he would ask him if he had ever seen the charter of his constituents.

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Hon. Mr. COLES.—Not for three days after assuming office.

Hon. Mr. HAYWARD.—Then as an honest politician he should not have sat at the Council Board an hour after he had seen it. He should have retired and agitated the country from one end to the other on the question, and the Duke of Newcastle, who had no objection to the Duke of Newcastle, had no objection to the Duke of Newcastle, had no objection to the Duke of Newcastle, in making this extraordinary jump.

The hon. member must be content to wait a while as the people would be disposed to know what arrangement was contemplated with reference to the expenses—whether the Tenants or the Proprietors, or the Government were to bear them.

Hon. Mr. COLES.—The question had not yet been decided. He had, however, been prepared to let the Duke of Newcastle have the right to make the arrangements.

Mr. HAYWARD.—His right to make the arrangements.

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