

The case of Felton is one of peculiar atrocity. The evidence of his having defrauded the government—that is, the public—of some thousand acres of land, was made so clear, that the delinquent Commissioner could no longer be screened, and he was suspended from his office. Mr. Spring Rice, however, when Colonial Secretary, admitting the enormity of the offence of which Felton appeared to be guilty, actually directed the Governor to compromise the affair by requiring merely the payment of the value of the lands of which he had reason to believe the public were defrauded! Of Felton's guilt there cannot be much doubt; but whether guilty or innocent, suspension, except during the prosecution of an inquiry, must always be injustice. If he be guilty, suspension is no punishment for his crime; dismissal from office, the refunding of his ill-gotten gains, and punishment, should have been at once enforced; if, however, he be not guilty, suspension becomes an act of gross injustice to the individual. It is, in fact, a lazy expedient worthy only of a British Colonial Minister—an expedient which is nearly certain to end in impunity to the delinquent official, and injustice to the public, and, therefore, productive of disgust and discontent, to the suffering people of the colony.

All the above cases, including those of Sheriffs Gagy and Witcher, were such as to call for the immediate interference of the Colonial Office: yet they have been, and we have no doubt will continue to be, allowed to drag on until the evils of colonial misrule shall be carried beyond the endurance of the people—a consummation which we take to be rapidly approaching in both provinces.

The last legislative act of the Assembly was to embody their demand for an elective Legislative Council in the form of a Bill, which passed the House by a very large majority. A preliminary objection to this Bill by the official party was, that it proposed to repeal a portion of an imperial statute, which a provincial and subordinate legislature is not competent to do. But to alter the constitution which the Act created, by a law passed in the forms which the Act itself prescribes, is neither a repeal nor a violation of it. The Act in question has already been amended without the aid of the Imperial Parliament. The Act constituted a House of Assembly of fifty members; in process of time parts of the country became thickly inhabited, which, when the Act first came into operation, were uninhabited wastes. A Bill, repealing so much of the Act as related to the Assembly and the division of the

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swer 'Yes.' On this confession he was sentenced to thirty days' imprisonment, and to pay a fine of 20*l*. The judge remarked that the proceeding was one of peculiar mildness, for it was left to the defendant himself to say whether he was guilty or not; from which, if it were not a mere clap-trap, nothing could have been inferred but that the man was punished because he would not perjure himself.