

measures to have it corrected and obviated for the time to come. After sending the message, on the 3rd of March he attended to prorogue the house. According to judge Powell, the door was barred against the usher when giving the notification. The house was, nevertheless, prorogued on that day.

Although this fact, from the insignificance of the interests involved, might be passed over with but few words, it assumes importance from having been the first in the series of political difficulties which henceforth were to be experienced in the province. It was the forerunner of the active opposition shewn in the assembly to the executive by a party inclined to discontent and anxious to find cause for the expression of the feeling. When we think of the population of 75,000 souls scattered over the entire province from the boundary line to Sandwich, some 450 miles, inhabiting a narrow fringe of the territory, except at localities where settlement extended a few miles to the north, it is impossible not to recognise the minor diversities of interest which presented themselves. Nevertheless, the main lines of policy called for by good government ran in the one direction. Hitherto there had been peace in the house of assembly. Its sixteen members had not been free from petty differences, but any such disagreement was short-lived and passed away without leaving any trace of discontent or bad feeling as its heritage. The reason is not difficult of explanation. Men were too much occupied in the struggle to live, to waste effort upon insignificant and unimportant observances. But a class had entered the province, the too frequent attendant of prosperity. Its members were desirous of gaining emolument on easy terms, and, by forcing themselves into notoriety and clamouring for political rights, sought to establish themselves in the public estimation. The best mode of destroying the power of the agitator is to take from him the weapons with which he can wage warfare. But the science of colonial government was then in its infancy. There was a dread of liberal