

not frequently,* more competent persons, who contribute from 100 l. to 500 l. a year in duties to the revenue, and are possessed of large properties in lands and houses, are excluded from the grand and special jury panels, simply because they do not, in the opinion of the sheriff, come under the qualification or denomination of "principal merchants or gentlemen." The consequence has been, that packed and prejudiced juries have been of frequent occurrence, and are almost unavoidable, without a change in the law. A political opponent has no chance of a fair trial before such a jury, however upright and high minded the court may be, and instead of British justice being administered in such cases, there is but the form observed, for the reality is not attained. The Bill passed by the Assembly was loudly called for, and met with general approval except from the Council, who also rejected a Bill for the prospective reduction of our enormous Civil List, although the colony is about 120,000 l. in debt, and its necessities imperatively demand a system of rigid retrenchment in all the public departments, in many of which officials are paid salaries for doing comparatively nothing.

The Road Bill, the Education Bill—both money Bills—the former appropriating 10,000 l. for the public road service, and the latter 7,500 l. for educational purposes, as well as the Supply Bill, were, in violation of the privileges of the House, all materially altered by the Council, and their total rejection was only saved by the forbearance and discretion of the Assembly, who preferred submitting to a temporary injustice rather than embarrass the public service, and deprive the country of the benefits resulting from these measures. A Bill to regulate our currency was also mutilated by the Council; and the last Bill which it negatived was a Delegation Bill sanctioned by the Governor, appropriating a sum of money to defray the expenses of delegates from the Council and Assembly to the Imperial Government, that both bodies might have an equal opportunity of being heard on the questions on which they have been so long at issue, and thus adopt the speediest means of terminating an agitation which will continue to distract the public mind and disturb the peace of society until they shall be satisfactorily settled. The liberal party in that colony have been persuaded that only one side of the question has hitherto obtained a ready credence from the Colonial Minister, owing to the misrepresentations of the local officials, and therefore solicited their opponents in legislation and progress to meet them manfully, where the arguments on both sides could be openly seen and discussed, not hid away in "secret despatches," which the local Executive has invariably refused to communicate to the Assembly; it has gone further, in refusing to communicate any despatches transmitted to Downing-street on the subject of self government. It must not, therefore, be a matter of surprise that men who sustain their position by such means, should reject the Delegation Bill as they did. In a word, the privileges of the Assembly have been utterly disregarded by the Council, and in the exercise of the only functions which the former branch conceived it might exercise unmolested by the Executive, that of taxation, a message of an intimidating character was delivered on the table of the Assembly by Mr. Secretary Crowdy, by the Governor's command, on the subject of the Revenue Bill, which was then pending on the Order Book for committal and the following resolutions were thereupon unanimously adopted by the Assembly:—

"Whereas a message has this day been received from his Excellency Ker B. Hamilton, Esq., the Governor of this island, which is a direct interference with the deliberations of this House, on the subject of the Revenue Bill, now pending before this House.

"*Resolved*, That the said message is a manifest breach of the privileges of this House; and however anxious this House is to maintain a good understanding with his Excellency, this House cannot, with due regard to its rights and privileges, which it is its sacred duty to uphold intact, permit this document to be recorded on its journals unaccompanied with the unequivocal expression of its opinion thereon.

"*Resolved*, That the course pursued by Her Majesty's Council on the important measures vitally affecting the public welfare, which have been sent to them for their concurrence by the Assembly during the present Session, has been the cause of protracting this Session of the Legislature to the present late period, and obliged this House in self-defence to withhold its prompt assent to the Revenue Bill.

"*Resolved*, That this House is most anxious to uphold the credit of the colony, and would deeply regret any step that would impair it; but looking to the present state of the country, the amount of public debt, and the demands on the public revenue, it feels persuaded that nothing tends more to the destruction of that credit than the present system of government, which is devoid of public confidence."

Having thus shown sufficient to convince any reasonable man of the impracticability of conducting the government of the colony under such a system, we shall briefly advert to the question of reciprocal free trade with the United States. The exports of Newfoundland, consisting nearly altogether of the produce of its fisheries, have been materially depreciated in their value in foreign markets, from the formidable competition of the French; it was therefore found that the interests of the country demanded new markets. We naturally looked to the United States for this purpose. For want of remunerative employment in Newfoundland, many of its hardy and intrepid fishermen were obliged to seek labour in the fishing vessels fitted out by the Americans; the old "supplying system," of the few merchants, who engross the greater part of the trade of that island, which enables them to command the produce of the fisherman's summer voyage at a price usually fixed by them at so low a rate as to leave the industrious operative scarcely sufficient to support him and his family for the winter; and the ruinous effects of the credit and truck system, which form