

February, against a counter-proposal to vote arrears. When this result was made known, murmurs of applause were heard in the gallery and below the bar of the House, which were with difficulty checked. The people could not restrain their feelings.

From this time to the close of the session, the House was chiefly occupied in receiving reports from the standing committee on grievances (chiefly on the conduct of delinquent public-officers), in discussing a Bill for the reform of the Legislative Council, and lastly, in carrying an address to the King, and both Houses of Parliament, reiterating their grievances, and remonstrating against the conduct we have just detailed.

The official personages whose conduct was inquired into and condemned by a committee of the Assembly, and subsequently by the whole House, were Judges Gale, Thompson, and Fletcher; Sheriffs Gagy and Witcher, Mr. Felton, Commissioner of Crown Lands, and some others.

Judge Gale was appointed by Lord Aylmer for no other reason, it should seem, than that he was hateful to the popular party. He had been objected to on the ground of his having been a violent partisan of the obnoxious Lord Dalhousie, and the declared enemy of those laws which he was called to administer. The objection was abundantly sustained, and was pronounced to be valid by Mr. Spring Rice, who, when Colonial Minister, disallowed the appointment. Lord Aylmer disregarded Mr. Rice's instructions, and continued the man in his office, where, to the dishonour of our colonial administration, he still remains.

Malversations in office have been brought home to Judge Fletcher; Judge Thompson has been proved to be an habitual and notorious drunkard; and yet these persons are still permitted to hold their offices*.

* We cannot avoid citing one case, to give the reader an idea of the kind of justice which is dispensed by judges who hold office during the pleasure of the Crown, that is, of the colonial executive:—

In December, 1835, a man perished of cold in the gaol of Montreal. The matter was investigated by the Assembly, and culpable neglect was proved against the Sheriff, Gagy, and his officer the jailor. An Address was accordingly voted, praying for their dismissal. This was not complied with; but the Attorney-General (another during-pleasure official) sent a bill of indictment for murder against the jailor, to the grand jury. This jury was nominated by Gagy, the sheriff, an implicated party, and of course the bill was not found.

The whole proceeding was regarded as a mockery of justice, and Lord Gosford's popularity was much damaged by it. But the most important part of the case is to come. A newspaper, called 'La Minerve,' called the jury a 'packed jury.' The jury took immediate cognizance of the libel, presented it to the Court as such, and the Attorney-General moved at once that a writ of attachment should issue against the printer, Duvernay; and for what, does the reader imagine?—for *contempt of Court*! The Court, without hearing evidence even to the fact of the publication, granted the attachment, and the printer gave bail. The next term the defendant was served with interrogatories. 'Are you proprietor of "La Minerve"?' 'Did you publish the article in question?' Duvernay, being on his oath, was obliged to an-