

being surrendered, instead of being the put "services" on our Jour- ners, and for the per- it is to give advice Attorney General in to be, if not at the of the Attorney General public business. What would be advised Her Ma- to appoint a Sol- or Johnny Broat's capacity, and Sydney, 300 miles Governor to be a confederate, alr, that I learned friends King's County, steady devotion, to this office have Next comes the the Admiralty— which in the case of A good Com- mitted to fill it. I make no thing, against his balance this ap- devised by the to their acts: fore unknown— the property of upon the floors was nominated ability—gracious majority of this government, have sense of printing been defeated said, the Ad- the indepen- dence before this vative gets sub- equal justice. is described the four Magis- as regards the or to represent, roner, and one the Party who the others I be obnoxious ence before the a. But I have of this pledge, the Old System, were entrusted of them. Mr. gues, sat down was concerned, conscientious de- ds, a fair share are peace till and several men appointments. Mr. tence. Mr. t acting upon our list was set aside; they knew the County better, of course, than his own Members, several of our recommendations were dis- regarded, and our imperfect notions of 'doing justice to both sides' controlled by the action of the Government, who disturbed our balance, and put about three-quarters of the list into the hands of our opponents. Sir, I would not feel so indignant if it were not for the specious pre- tences with which this Party policy is attempted to be covered. In my opinion, there never existed a Party Government in this Province more closely bound, more selfishly worked, or more offensive; and yet recollect the speech of last Session, and the monster debate, 'poor Nov Scotia was not fit for a Party Government.'—the Governor would be advised, if surrounded by a Party, to do injustice.' Which have we now? and what has Lord Falkland been advised to do? The country will yet re- spond to those questions in a voice nor to be disregarded.

But, Mr Chairman, I come now to that set which, to use a vigorous, if not choice expression, caps the climax,—the action of the local Government relative to the Regis- trars' Bill. Again, I beg it to be under- stood, I make no charge against Sir Rupert D'George as a gentleman. I have admitted before, and I again repeat, he is fully competent for, and is courteous and obliging, in the per- formance of the duties of his office. But, by the new Con- stitution, we are to have a Council reflecting the opinions of the Assembly, acting of course in accordance with the views of the majority, and by the fourth article of the Cas- nada resolutions of Sept. 1841, adopted by us last Session, it is declared, "That the people of this Province have moreover a right to expect from such [our] Provincial Administration, the exertion of their best endeavours, that the Imperial authority shall be exercised in the manner most consistent with their well understood wishes and interests."

The Registrar's Bill, after long controversy, was passed last session by large majorities, in both branches of the Legislature, and subsequently received his Excellency's as- sent. So far, the harmony is perfect,—at this stage the antagonism begins. His Excellency's advisers were clearly bound to have transmitted this Bill with an earnest recom- mendation in its favour, because the Imperial authority was to be applied to in all cases by his Excellency, to aid the local policy as declared by the Legislature. If Sir Rupert disapproved of the passage of the bill, he had his remedy; he could have relinquished his office, and resign- ed his seat in Council, while he remained, if indeed we have a responsible Council, he was pledged by every con- stitutional obligation, to assist in having the bill approved of. How does he act? He writes a letter to his Excellen- cy against the bill, which his Excellency receives and trans- mits to the Colonial Secretary, speaking at the same time favourably of Sir Rupert's claims; but this being a local question, the advisers are responsible to us for the act. Now, if they advised his Excellency to transmit this letter, they clearly violated their duty to the country—if they did not, then, on its coming to their knowledge, if attached to the new system, they would have tendered their resign- ations in an hour. The letter goes to Lord Stanley. His Lordship's despatch lying now on our table, says that the bill has been disallowed by reason of Sir Rupert's "objec- tions."—we ask for a copy of the letter, it is refused by the hon. Attorney General; and the Assembly are gravely told that a single officer of the Government can controul the action of the Legislature, and that his influence in the Colonial office is more powerful than that of the Council and Assembly together, and further, that his appeal to Lord Stanley—the judge and arbiter between the two par- ties, the Registrar and the Province, cannot be submitted to us because it is private—a private letter to Lord Stanley is to control our public rights! If this, Sir, is not a renewal of the old system, and of the appeals to the Colonial Min- ister—the back-stair Lord Bote system of George III.—then I confess myself ignorant of every constitutional doc- trine, and of all the purifying influences the new system

was intended to confer. If it can be defended I will be glad to hear the grounds.

But, Mr. Chairman, it may be asked why I have en- deavoured to engage the attention of the Committee, by such an earnest, if not vehement appeal. Sir, I have en- tered public life to pursue no course of shifting expediency. I have adopted, after patient enquiry and reflection, the principles which I have now illustrated—I press them because I believe them to be British, because they have been enshrined to us by the gracious recognition of our Sovereign, and because I regard them as essential to the preservation of the Imperial authority in this hemis- phere. They are the birthright and inheritance of every British subject within the wide limits of this noble con- tinent. Although not a native, I came here in infancy—my affections, fortune, and fate are here. It is my sister and conscientious belief that until these rights are respected in practice, the two millions who now inhabit these noble de- pendencies, the bright disem in the British Crown, will never rest contented, or pursue with confidence and spirit the high career to which we are destined. We would be unworthy our ancestors, and degrade the blood which flowed in our veins, if we felt otherwise. For these reasons, I he- ther depressed or triumphant. I am determined to exert my humble talents, and every energy God and nature have be- stowed, to implant them here, and to give them full, free and practical operation. Torn to the page of history, and survey the broad field of Europe—look at Italy, Rus- sia, Austria, Spain, and France—where the genius of their people has exhibited the most grand and exquisite deve- lopements in the pursuits of science and the fine arts; and yet they want the general impress, the civilization, the virtues, the order incident to free institutions. The few are elevated, while the many remain ignorant and debased. How comes it that England, occupying as she does, a small island, a mere speck on the shores of the old world, enjoys such unquestionable superiority; and rules, almost supreme, in the congress of modern nations. Go where you will the genius, the character, the moral power of her people are known and respected. In her, the sciences, the arts, literature and liberty, her a sanctuary and a home, where they are improving and expanding—ever secure and ever progressive. What creates and enervates this elevation of character—that gives this bold and active enter- prise, whose limits are bounded only by the circle of the world? Sir, it is the mould—the inspiration of her institutions—the security they confer—the road they open to honor and office to be won by the rivalry of mind. There is in them no cold and chilling exclusion; there the son of the peas- ant, in the glorious race may outrun the son of the proud- est noble, and if he have the talent, gild his brow with a coronet. I may be told, indeed, that British institutions will not produce the same benign effects here, and that we possess a less educated and less enlightened constituency. I deny it. It is a libel on the people of Nova Scotia—in their behalf I here repel it. I have heard, indeed, our audiences often taunted with the offensive appellation of "a mob." Sir, the people of this City and Province, are sagacious and enquiring,—not ready to yield to impracti- cable theories, however showy and captivating, nor to be misled by sophistry, however refined or ingenious.

There are thousands here who fully understand the is- sues now put to them; and who, though loyal to the heart's core, will make every effort, however bold, to assert and establish their rights. I declare, that I never felt so tri- umphant, so buoyant, as a public man, as I do at this very hour. These I attempt to crush and fetter the system are only hastening its establishment. The principles are spreading among our opponents; we know they are gain- ing converts. I entreat my hon. and learned friend from Windsor, with his candid and vigorous mind—and my hon. and learned friend from King's, who has come into this House with so many talents to fit him to be a useful public man—to give their real opinions their just sway, to