

security to the giant, crushes the stripping under its weight.

It may be said here, as portions of the Press continually say: "Try the system longer—make no hasty changes—things are very well as they are—and any little matters that require improvement, will work their own remedy." This may be very convenient in the eyes of some gentlemen to whom agitation has lost the charms it once possessed. But, Sir, I see no reason in the argument, if evils do palpably exist, that clearly demand removal, to avoid consequences which cannot fail to be injurious to the country.

I ask, however, whether the trial of the system, as made by the present Government, warrants this appeal. Let me take a hasty review of what the last two years' history of Nova Scotia presents. In the first place, Mr. Chairman, we have seen in that time in full operation one of the worst features of the American administration of Government—one which is denounced by some of the best of their Statesmen. Extensive changes in office, uncalled for by the system of government, and from which the country could derive no benefit. Of these, one hundred magistrates, some three or four hundred road commissioners, with emoluments averaging probably not more than a pound or two; distillery inspectors at 5s. a day; form but a part—not to refer to officers of high-r emolument. It will be remembered that this is the work of gentlemen whose professions were so different; and who sought power that they might confer on their country an improved government and more perfect freedom.

We have had a good deal to say lately, and in the last session about that cabinet of curiosities in the Provincial Secretary's office, which the Government guard with such zealous care that we are forbidden to hope for a revelation of its secrets until a change in the administration shall take place. Now and then, however, a little borrowed light is reflected on us. Thus we learnt the "assurance" of Sir John Harvey to Earl Grey that "£800 sterling would be well secured" to Sir Rupert; and which had been unknown, but for his Lordship's reply. His Lordship's admiration of the virtuous professions of the Provincial Government, and which he has had opportunity to see nobly fulfilled, has given us another glimpse of the suppressed despatches. Listen to Earl Grey's despatch of 7th March, 1848. "You will express to your present Executive Council," says His Lordship, "the satisfaction with which I have read their minutes of 8th of February, 1848, in which they express their intention to resist with firmness the mischievous policy of sweeping changes of subordinate functionaries." Why is it, sir, that the Executive Council so cruelly withhold from the people of Nova Scotia, this minute of the 8th of February, 1848,—this record of their virtuous resolves; and compel us to admire at second hand, their virtue and their consistency!

In the next place, the present administration have adopted a practice little to have been expected from a Liberal Government.—I mean the withholding of public documents of deep importance to the people, for the withholding of which it is obvious no reasons ex-

ist, except the danger of damaging themselves as a party by the exhibition of the truth. Take as instances the papers that passed between the two Governments on the formation of the present administration in the spring of 1848; the full despatches on the Civil List; the number and names of the excluded Magistrates, and all the papers and despatches on that subject—all sought for by formal motions here—refused by the Government, and the refusal sanctioned by a majority of the house. It has been to me melancholy evidence of how much the people of Nova Scotia have to learn of the principles of a free Government, that their representatives have dared to sanction so gross a violation of the duty of the administration; so flagrant an infringement of the rights of this house, and of the people.

Again, let us examine the public accounts, and discover how the revenue of the last two years stands, in comparison with that of the preceding period;—

On the 31st Dec., 1843, on the retirement of Messrs. Howe, Uniacke, and McNab, (the present Provincial Secretary, Attorney General, and Receiver General,) we received from the (so called) Coalition Government, a balance in the chest for the public service of 1844, of **£463**

On the 31st of December, 1847, the Provincial chest contained and we surrendered to these gentlemen and their colleagues a balance for public services of 1848, of **£10,923**

We therefore gave them to commence upon, ten thousand four hundred and sixty pounds more than they had left us. **£10,460**

On the 31st December, 1843, they left us a Provincial funded debt, on interest, of **£65,000**

On the 31st December, 1847, we left them the same debt reduced to **£49,800**

We had paid off Fifteen Thousand and Two Hundred Pounds, of debt, bearing interest, and making, with the difference of cash in the chest, **£25,660**

Thus the Revenue prospered in our hands, besides that we gave to our own distressed settlers in 1845, £2667—to the sufferers by fire in Canada, Barbadoes and Newfoundland, and to the sufferers by famine in Ireland £4130—making £7797; to which might be added further sums granted to our own suffering population between 1845 and 1848.

How has the country fared in this important element of its prosperity under our successors in the government? In the first year of their administration, there was a diminution in the Revenue of *Thirty Seven Thousand Pounds*, (£37,000); no small falling off in a Revenue that barely reaches £100,000, even in prosperous times. This year it has improved some three or four thousand pounds upon last year, and it has been amusing to hear the boastings of the Government and their Press. The boast