

to be concentrated in his hands. Whereas the evident tendency of both these measures is to fritter down his direct power and to portion it out among corporations and lieutenants, who on many occasions may be disposed to use it in obstructing the measures of Government; and in all events will require to be courted and managed in order to secure the right direction of the influence thus unnecessarily given them.

I have entered, purposely, more at large into these proposed measures, because I have observed that your adoption of them arises from an idea that by assimilating the modes of the Government of the Province to the modes of the Government of England, you will obtain all the beneficial effects which we receive from them. Whereas to assimilate a colony in all respects to its mother country is not possible, and if possible, would not be prudent. The one may have many institutions which are wholly inapplicable to the situation of the other. Some there may be which we permit to continue here only because they already exist, and are interwoven with other parts of the Government, but which, perhaps, if we had a choice, we should not now be disposed originally to introduce.

Such, in the opinion of many, are corporations and separate jurisdictions of all sorts; others there are which may be objectionable in a colony as tending to lessen the authority which the parent state ought to possess over it, as long as that relation subsists between them. Of this description I conceive to be all subordinate powers created in the colony, beyond those which are absolutely necessary for its internal police. The power of the person having the Government is the power of this country, but such subordinate powers as are proposed are not ours, and we have no connection with them or direct influence over those who exercise them. They are rather means and instruments of Independence. I can see no ground that will authorize me to encourage the further prosecution of either of the measures in question.

I am, etc.,

(Signed) PORTLAND.