

Communica-
tions on resig-
nation of Ex.
Council.

serve every Act of an unusual or extraordinary character. Undoubtedly the Secret Societies Bill answers that description, being unexampled in British Legislation. The Gentlemen of the late Council heard his sentiments on it expressed to them. He told them that it was an arbitrary and unwise measure, and not even calculated to effect the object it had in view. He had given his consent to its being introduced into Parliament, because he had promised soon after his assumption of the Government, that he would sanction Legislation on the subject, as a substitute for Executive Measures, which he refused to adopt on account of their proscriptive character: although he deprecates the existence of Societies which tend to foment Religious and Civil discord. The Gentlemen of the late Council cannot fail to remember with what pertinacity those measures were pressed on him, and can hardly be unaware of what would have followed at that time, if, in addition to rejecting the proscriptive Measures urged, he had refused to permit any Legislation on the subject.

Permission to introduce a Bill cannot be properly assumed as fettering the judgment of the Governor with regard to the Royal Assent, for much may happen during the passage of the Bill through the Legislature to influence his decision. In this case the Bill was strongly opposed and reprobated in the Assembly, but when it went to the Legislative Council, many of the Members had seceded, and it did not come up from that House with the advantage of having been passed in a full meeting. Taking these circumstances into consideration, together with the precise Instructions of Her Majesty, and the uncertainty of Her Majesty's allowing such a Bill to go into operation, the Governor General considered it to be his duty to reserve it for Her Majesty's consideration; as it was much better that it should not go into operation until confirmed by Her Majesty's Government, than that it should be discontinued after its operation had commenced.

In conclusion, the Governor General protests against the explanation which these Gentlemen propose to offer to Parliament, as omitting entirely the actual and prominent circumstances which led to their resignation, and as conveying to Parliament a misapprehension of his sentiments and intentions, which has no foundation in any part of his conduct, unless his refusal to make a virtual surrender of the Prerogative of the Crown to the Council for party purposes, and his anxiety to do justice to those who were injured by the arrangements attending the Union, can be regarded as warranting a representation, which is calculated to injure him, without just cause, in the opinion of the Parliament and the People, on whose confidence he places his sole reliance for the successful administration of the Government.

Government House, }
28th November, 1843. }

Ordered, That two thousand copies of the Message of His Excellency, the Governor General, together with the Documents accompanying the same, on the subject of the Resignation of the late Members of the Executive Council, be printed in each of the English and French Languages, for the use of the Members of this House.

Mr. Holmes from the Special Committee to which was referred the Petition of the Mayor, Aldermen, and Citizens, of the City of *Montreal*, presented to the House the Report of the said Committee, which was again read at the Clerk's table.

(For the said Report see Appendix K. K.)

A 3

Mr. Thorburn, from the Standing Committee on Contingencies, presented to the House the fifth Report of the said Committee, which was again read at the Clerk's table, and is as followeth:—

Fifth Report on
Contingencies.

"Your Committee have, after a minute examination of the Estimate referred to in their first Report, for the necessary Disbursements of the present Session and the Recess, (say to thirty first December, 1844) find that the sum estimated, will fall short by the sum of two thousand six hundred and seventy seven pounds, five shillings. They therefore recommend that Your Honourable House would move an humble Address to His Excellency, the Governor General, praying that His Excellency would be pleased to grant his Warrant, in favour of the Clerk of Your Honourable House, for the sum of nine thousand one hundred and seventy seven pounds, five shillings, which with the sum of five thousand pounds, already received, will be sufficient to complete the service for the period mentioned."

Resolved, That the said Report be now committed to a Committee of the whole House.

The House accordingly resolved itself into the said Committee.

Mr. Cameron took the Chair of the Committee, and after some time spent therein,

Mr. Speaker resumed the chair,

And Mr. Cameron reported that the Committee had come to a Resolution, which he was directed to submit to the House, whenever it shall be pleased to receive the same.

Ordered, That the Report be received tomorrow.

The Honourable Mr. Neilson, from the Special Committee to which was referred the Bill, to exempt vehicles conveying Manure from the Cities and Towns of this Province, from the payment of Tolls on Turnpike Roads, reported that the Committee had gone through the Bill, and had made some amendments thereto, which amendments were again read at the Clerk's table, and agreed to by the House.

Manure con-
veyed free from
Toll.

Ordered, That the following clause be added to the said Bill, and do follow the second clause:

"And be it enacted, that no vehicle, laden or unladen, horses or cattle, belonging to the proprietor or occupier of any lands divided by such Turnpike Road, as aforesaid, shall be liable to Toll on passing through any toll gate on such road, (at whatever distance the same may be from any City or Town,) for the sole purpose of going from one part of the Lands of such Proprietor or occupier to another part of the same; provided such vehicle, horses, or cattle, do not proceed more than half a mile along such Turnpike Road, either in going or returning, for farming or domestic purposes only."

Ordered, That the said Bill, as amended, be engrossed.

Mr. Hamilton from the Special Committee, to which were referred the Entries in the Journals of this House of the 5th October, 1842, relating to the Salmon Fisheries in the Inferior District of *Gaspé*, with an instruction to continue the Enquiry relative to the said Fisheries, with power to report by Bill or otherwise, presented to the House the Report of the said Committee, which was again read at the Clerk's Table.

Salmon Fish-
eries Gaspé.

(For the said Report see Appendix L. L.)

Resolved, That the said Report be committed to a Committee of the whole House, tomorrow.

A Message from the Legislative Council, by John Fenning Taylor, Esquire, one of the Masters in Chancery:

Message from
Leg. Council.

Mr. Speaker,

The Legislative Council have passed the following Bills without any amendment: