

do, that they will employ capable persons? In short, the plan that has been adopted; is perfectly nugatory, deceptive, and destructive of its professed object. I am anxious to see a better plan pursued by the House of Assembly of Lower Canada; on which account it is, & in order that they may be upon their guard against the insidious subtrefuges, which the enemies of political information and discussion have recourse to, that I have been more detailed on this subject, than otherwise its importance might seem to require. I can not, however, quit it, without giving the following extract from the reply made by Mr. Wilson, the original proposer, to Mr. Nichol, as evincing the soundest principles of freedom, with the most judicious application of them, to the case in question.

"In a free country, every subject has a share in the government, and, therefore, every subject has not only a right, but is in duty bound, to enquire into the manner in which justice is administered, and into the public measures proposed or pursued; because, by such enquiry, he may discover that some of the judgments pronounced, or the measures followed, tend towards the overturning of the liberties of his country; and, by making such a discovery in time, and acting strenuously, according to his station, against them, their effects may be disappointed."

On the subject also of the want of precedent being urged against his motion, he shrewdly observed that, "gentlemen talked very loudly of precedents, and brought forward the alledged rules of the British parliament to defeat his motion; but he would ask those gentlemen, if the precedents at home, and the rules of the British parliament had guided them in their decisions upon other cases? They well knew that they did not; and he was sure they would not on future occasions, where it might be convenient to overlook them. Where, he would ask, would those gentlemen who assumed so much parliamentary knowledge on the present occasion, and who appeared to talk more about precedents than any other individuals, find a precedent for paying a sheriff for doing his duty? No where at home. It was contrary to all precedent to pay a sheriff any thing for his services; yet those honourable members who opposed the present motion, did not think it unprecedented or unparliamentary, to vote annual salaries to those officers, although it was, furthermore, well known to the House and to the country, that the emoluments of their offices were amply sufficient to compensate them. They had also district-schools for the education of young men who were bred up to the law, and when such institutions were supported by the House, contrary to the precedents of England, he did not expect that, in arguing the present question, there would be any mention of precedents."

Is not this also equally and forcibly applicable to Lower Canada?

L. L. M.