

and acted with more firmness, agitation would have been defeated in the beginning. The leniency displayed on almost all occasions was taken as weakness, and demands increased in proportion with the concessions. One advantage for the agitators consisted in the Home Government allowing acknowledge grievances to remain in *Statu quo* longer than they ought; for with the aid of these grievances, which in some instances were glaring, the people were easily persuaded that others existed which were not so palpable, because they were of a more complicated nature. Questions were allowed to remain open which ought to have been decided at once, publicly and openly; such among others, was that of an elective legislative Council.

Another source of difficulty consisted in the instructions drawn up for the guidance of the head of the local government. It is impossible for a colonial minister, with even the best intentions, to frame instructions applying to remote society, to whose laws and habits he is a perfect stranger. More responsibility ought to rest with the governors, who should always be men of talent and energy, and be as free as possible from any control that might check their proceedings. Past experience has convinced me that such has been the case in one instance; for the head of the local government being bound to act according to instructions in almost every particular, was impeded or prevented in action from want of special instruction in cases of emergency; or the instructions, when received, were inapplicable, circumstances having changed in the meantime, so that evils which might have been remedied in the beginning grew almost incurable in consequence of the system.

I shall not trespass any longer upon your time, and that of your readers, upon a subject that ought to have been treated by a better hand than mine. I must beg your indul-