

ers—go hang. I ask whether if the whole of the money devoted by the legislature for the agricultural society of Montreal, were now in the hands of the committee, they would not have enough and to spare, both for the purchase of Eclipse, and for their intended premiums for cattle as well as rural productions? Let them speak out. They have, by their advertisement, preferred a bill of indictment against lord Dalhousie, to which he has pleaded guilty, by admitting the fact, but has entered a plea of justification. Let us, however, look farther into the case. The funds of the agricultural societies are not, I take it, alone derived from money granted by the legislature, but also from the contributions of individuals; can it for a moment be conceded that either the governor, or even the provincial parliament, have the power of dictating the precise mode in which those contributions shall be expended? Let this be answered. But, put the case, that the agricultural society have no funds but what they derive from provincial grants, and that those provincial grants are specially and solely appropriated, as represented; yet, if the agricultural society depart from the letter of their instructions, it is not the governor, it is not lord Dalhousie, it is not any individual, that has a right to controul them, and cause them to retrace their steps. Whatever his motives may be,—I will allow them to be praiseworthy, (tho' I can not yet see how;) whatever his disposition may be—I will allow it to be excellent, (I know no public man, as far as report goes, that has a better;) whatever his intention may be never *designedly* to weaken the security of law,—and I will, for argument's sake, allow that there is no *design* in this, beyond what is avowed; yet I say, that by assuming the dictatorial and inquisitorial tone, which, there is no gainsaying it, he has done, on this, and other, occasions, he *does* weaken the security of law. The agricultural societies are responsible and incorporated bodies, and are answerable to the house of assembly, not to the governor, for the administration of the trust reposed in them. It is at the next session that the reports and accounts of the society will have to be produced to the house of assembly, and to be approved of, or condemned, by them. By this premature, and *ex parte* condemnation of their proceedings by the governor, they are virtually accused of misconduct and *misapplication of public money*, and with what grace the latter accusation comes from the quarter whence it does, the public will have their own opinion. The society will not only have, in their next report to justify, (for they can not present an account without setting off on the creditor side the proceeds of the sale of Eclipse, against the amount of his purchase on the debtor side,) but they are bound in duty to the public to explain the whole transaction, and either substantiate their charge against the governor, or take shame to themselves for