

ing before, I stated, that I should convict the honorable gentleman before any audience who might choose to listen to the charges preferred and the proofs adduced. I now tell him, that it is my intention to convict him of *deception* and *corruption*. Now, Mr. Chairman, the honorable gentleman has repented in the course of his speeches to-day, endeavoured to deceive this Meeting, by describing me as an incorrigible Tory—seeking to gain the confidence of the constituency of this County with a view to deceive them as to my real political opinions. Now I ask that honorable gentleman, if he does not know, that so far back as 1828, I wrote a number of Letters, which he published in the *Nova Scotian*, exposing the misdeeds of a Magistrate in the County of Pictou, who was a Tory and a Kirkman, and who had been foisted into the Commission *against* “the well understood wishes of the people”—that a prosecution was threatened by the Magistrate—a private correspondence between the Editor and myself ensued—that Editor was the hon. gentleman who now accuses me of tory principles—I call upon him to answer and explain.—[Mr. Howe reluctantly said,—“this may be all true, I cannot recollect all this—what I say is, I always found Mr. Ross acting with the Kirk party in Pictou.”] Mr. R.—Well, I shall refresh his memory a little more before I am done. Did time permit, Mr. Chairman, I would explain to this Meeting what kind of Tory I am, by entering into the particulars of a controversy that lasted for several weeks, between the Editor of the *Nova Scotian*, and a writer in the “*Free Press*”, late of Halifax, who signed himself “*Anti-Monopolist*.” I am the writer of those letters, and if the sentiments they contain are tory, then I am one. Will the honorable gentleman pretend to deny that he knew I was the author of those communications, written ten or twelve years ago. He cannot,—how dare he then attempt to deceive this Meeting. But, Mr. Chairman, I shall refresh his memory on more recent occurrences. In December, 1839, when he came to this County to lecture the Yeomanry upon his plan of Responsible Government, I attended the public meeting held at Truro—the political Tory Sheriff to which he alluded, was in the chair—and not feeling disposed to put myself in the power of a person who I knew would avail himself of the influence of the chair to insult me, if I attempted to address the meeting, I concluded to keep silent, and express my opinions afterwards of the proceedings of the meeting, through the medium of the public press. Shortly afterwards I reviewed the proceedings of that meeting, and my opinion of Mr. Howe’s scheme of Responsible Government, and published the same in the “*Acadian Recorder*,” and stated therein “that Mr. Joseph Howe not only deserved the countenance, but support of all who wished prosperity

to the country,—“*Responsibility*” being the grand preventative of corruption, and curbed the abuse of power in every department of the State,—the great majority of the people of the Province know this; and feel that the more Responsibility is infused into our institutions, the nearer we approximate to that standard which we all admit to be our best guide—the British Constitution.—But they also know that the same degree of Responsibility, and the mode of applying it, must somewhat vary from that of the Mother Country.”—“The only Responsibility, which as a Colony we can expect to introduce, is, to make the Heads of Departments *paid by the Colony*, amenable to the people, through the House of Assembly, whether holding their seats in the Executive Council or not; *by making their salaries dependent upon the annual vote of the popular branch.*” These Mr. Chairman were my opinions then, and mind you, *this was before the present constitution was proclaimed, and these are my opinions still.* I happened to be in the *Nova Scotian* office the Monday after this communication appeared in the “*Recorder*,” Mr. Thompson, the Editor of the *Pearl*, and Mr. Howe were also there—Mr. Howe accosted me, “Ross, you wrote the article in Saturday’s paper, reviewing our meeting at Truro.” I answered—Yes. “Why, you are a Responsible Government man as well as myself.” “Yes—but would apply it in a different way.” Will the Honorable Gentleman undertake to contradict one iota of these facts, yet he has the hardihood to stand up and try to make you believe that my professions of Responsibility and economy are artifices now assumed to mislead you. [Mr. Howe. But when did he and his friends call public meetings and strengthen the hands of “*Reformers*.”] Mr. Ross. I was never very ambitious of figuring as a leader. I entertain my own opinions, and offered them to the public through the press, and do not consider the influence of name essential to give weight to an argument. Now, Mr. Chairman, I think I have sufficiently established the *first count* of the indictment, and that this meeting must find him guilty not only of attempting to deceive them, but himself also, as to my real character. Now Mr. Chairman, let us proceed to the other charge of using corrupt influence as an Executive Councilor, in the discharge of his duty as one of the Government. Mr. Ross here read an extract from the Journals of the Assembly in the year 1837—which he said happened to be among his papers—the same he read at the Onslow Meeting, but the Reporter did not think proper to publish it, for reasons best known to himself.

Extracted from an address to the King’s Most Excellent Majesty, and passed by the House the 13th of April, 1837—“In England the Representative branch can compel a redress of grievances by withholding the supplies: Here they have no such remedy: because the salaries of nearly all