

all) upon the Civil List Bill, as well as the Cape Breton question in July, the Government were defeated, and the views of this side were triumphantly forced upon them. Can it be denied, that the Attorney General proposed salaries for His Excellency, the Chief Justice, Sir Rupert George, the Clerk of the Crown and others, which were rejected by the opposition? Can it be denied that in almost every division, upon the items of the Civil List, he and his friends sat in a minority? Can it be denied that then, and up to this hour, he has been afraid to try the question of arrears, and that the Government stands now indebted in large sums to their public officers which they have no means to liquidate, and which Lord Stanley has refused to pay? The Civil List Bill was passed indeed, but not by the Government, it was carried against their wishes; and had the Government pursued the policy of the Whig Administration of 1843, they would have been bound to resign; for it will be in the recollection of the House that Lord John Russell was defeated on the bill introduced for the settlement of the Civil List, and in consequence of it, that he and his friends tendered their resignation. Again, upon the Cape Breton question, the House will recollect the anomalous position the Government assumed when we met in July—no plan—no principle—no measure. In it the Government again sustained a mortifying defeat. The leader of the Government, it was well known, sanctioned, if he did not draft, the vague and do nothing resolution brought in by the hon and learned Member for Hants. I had then the honor of submitting, in behalf of the opposition, a series of resolutions on that question. I recollect I was taunted by the Attorney General in recommending a search into the archives of office here, for evidence of the complete incorporation of Cape Breton to Nova Scotia, from 1761 to 1784. He spoke, perhaps contemptuously, of what he was then pleased to call my taste to search into dusty records. Before the debate had ended, the Attorney General had extracted the essence of our resolutions, and incorporated them into that introduced by the learned member for Windsor—throw his own resolution introduced by the member for Hants under the table, supported our resolutions in a new shape, agreed to the appointment of a Commission to make the searches before despised, in short was forced to adopt our policy, and to conduct the researches suggested, and which, as now known to the House, have produced a body of evidence, which will have an important bearing upon the question. And with these obvious facts the learned Attorney General, two months afterwards goes into the barn at Bridgetown, and beludges his constituency by talking of the Administrative strength of his Government, and of his having "beaten us upon every occasion."

But now for the second charge.—The violation of this principle so loudly trumpeted, so seemingly fair, so beautiful in theory—but so hollow in practice—of doing "justice to all parties." It resulted in what was predicted, an exclusive dispensation of patronage, during the last year, to gratify their own friends, and to promote their own Party ends. I do not deny that the Opposition feel a little sensitive on this point, for, with the exception of the Speakership, there is not a single public Office of value in this Province held by a Liberal; and as for the Speakership, the Office has dignity of itself, but it is well known that it maintains it now in spite of the Government—for every effort has been made by the Administration to degrade it, although in vain. I do not mean to rest my case upon assertions—I shall go to details, and first to the Office of Solicitor General. The Hon. and learned Member for Sydney will not misunderstand me; I neither deny his talents, nor his claims—but I do say, that that office ought not to have been conferred upon him—that his residence renders it impossible that he can perform its duties; and therefore that his appointment was an exhibition, to use the language of the Governor General in the Gore Ad-

dress, of "the patronage of the Crown being surrendered to the Council for Government purposes, instead of being distributed to promote the efficiency of the public service." I recollect we put this language last Session on our Journals. What are the duties of that Office, and for the performance of which he is paid a salary. It is to give advice in cases of emergency to aid the Attorney General in questions and trials of importance; to be, if not at the right hand, at least within reachable distance of the Attorney General, in case he is overclouded with public business, sick, or was obliged to leave the Province. What would he do in Parliament, if the Ministry had advised Her Majesty, in the exercise of her prerogative, to appoint a Solicitor General living at the Land's End, or Johnny Groat's house. (Laughter.) Admitting fitness, capacity, and every other requisite—the distance of Sydney, 300 miles from the capital—rendered the appointment of Mr. Dodd wholly indefensible; and reduced the Governor to be a mere tool in the hands of his Council. I confess, sir, that I admire the magnanimity of my Hon. and learned friends from Lunenburg, Queen's, Hants, and King's County, who support the Government with such steady devotion, after their respective and superior claims to this office have been treated with such open disregard. Next comes the appointment of Marshal in the Court of Vice Admiralty—on Office of trust and emolument, and which in the case of war will yield to the luculent a fortune. A good Conservative, Mr. Hare-horne, is of course nominated to fill it. Again, Mr. Chairman, I beg it to be understood I make no reflections upon the holder, and say nothing against his claims. We are trying a principle. To balance this appointment, a most ingenious scheme was devised by the Government, to give a shining fairness to their acts: they appoint a Law Reporter—an Office before unknown—The Constitutional right, to say nothing of the propriety of this appointment, has been openly assailed upon the floors of this Assembly. Mr. James, a Liberal, was nominated to it; it entailed labour and responsibility—gracious hoon!—but where was the pay? A majority of this House, and some of the supporters of the Government, have refused to aid the Reporter even in the expense of printing his reports; and the Government have been defeated by their own friends—because, as they said, the Advisers of His Excellency had not respected the independence of the Assembly, by reeking its sanction before this novel appointment was made. The Conservative gets substance—the Liberal a shadow; but that is equal justice. My hon. and learned friend from Halifax has described the patronage dispensed in this County last year—four Magistrates, all from the Conservative side. As regards the County of Pictou, which I have the honour to represent, there have been two Magistrates, one Coroner, and one Commissioner of Schools, all belonging to the Party who opposed me at the last Election; against the others I say nothing, but the Coroner was known to be obnoxious to my friends—because, sir, he gave evidence before the Committee which they believed to be untrue. But I have yet to disclose a more extraordinary sample of this pledge, "of doing justice to all Parties." Under the Old System, the Government never attempted to interfere with the nomination of Road Commissioners—they were entrusted to the Members of the County, or a majority of them. Mr. Smith, and I, together with my Hon. Colleague, sat down last year and prepared a list—and so far as I was concerned, I assert that I acted from an honest and conscientious desire to give my opponents, as well as my friends, a fair share of local patronage. Pictou never will have peace till this policy is adopted. We did recommend several men from the Kirk Party; and upon one or two appointments only, my Hon. Colleague, and I, had a difference. Mr. Smith, and I, sent in our list, never suspecting that our decision would be touched by a Government acting upon such generous principles. Mark the result:—our list was

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