

ⁱmproper, we feel bound as steadily to resist, as tending directly to sap public integrity, and to draw the people into a belief that all preferment must be sought for by propitiating the Legislature, instead of entitling themselves thereto by an honest discharge of their duty to Your Majesty.

In the neighbouring colonies of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick these difficulties are obviated by the Assemblies sending up the resolutions passed in committee of supply to the Councils for their separate concurrence, which being concurred in by them, are frequently included in bills embracing every variety of grant.

In the Canadas, however, several bills are sent up for separate grants, thus, by either mode, affording the Councils an opportunity of discussing each matter by itself, and either concurring in or rejecting it as they shall be advised. The Assembly in Newfoundland refuse to adopt either course, and insist upon tacking all their favourite grants to the Supply Bill; and we humbly submit to Your Majesty that granting the supplies only upon conditions which they know will not be acceded to, is tantamount to refusing them; and although we regret the temporary inconvenience that some of the public functionaries will suffer from the adherence on the part of the Assembly to what we believe to be a most dangerous policy, yet we are fully persuaded that it is absolutely necessary for the protection of the public against the assumption of authority at once arbitrary and unjust, and which, if allowed to establish itself, will very soon concentrate all power in that branch of the Legislature, to the subversion of the just prerogative of the Crown and the liberties of the people.

Lest Your Majesty should deem the sums of money which have been the subject of our anxious deliberations, too insignificant in themselves to call forth so much earnestness on our part, we humbly beg to acquaint Your Majesty, that the net year's revenue, arising from duties paid into the treasury of the island during the year ending the 5th July last, and disposable by the local legislature, only amounts to the sum of 24,974 *l.* 0 *s.* 6 *d.*, upon which there exists a permanent charge, created by colonial enactments, amounting to 2,520 *l.*, besides some small sums not brought into the calculation, thereby reducing the disposable balance of the year's receipts to 22,454 *l.* 0 *s.* 6 *d.* It is true there is a balance remaining from past years of nearly 6,000 *l.*, and there may be perhaps about 1,000 *l.* arising from licences to sell spirituous liquors, giving at the utmost a disposable revenue for the year, of 29,454 *l.*; of this sum, a bill has already passed, as before observed, appropriating 16,801 *l.* for roads, a sum which we thought was far too much to be applied to such a purpose, as its expenditure would reduce the disposable revenue to 12,653 *l.*; but in deference to the earnest desire of the Assembly, we reluctantly yielded our assent thereto.

When, however, the Supply Bill came up, we found that although it contained an appropriation in the aggregate of 19,068 *l.* 2 *s.*, exceeding the revenue by 6,415 *l.*; yet that provision for some important branches of the public service had been either altogether omitted, or so far diminished as to be totally inadequate to the keeping up the efficiency of the service for which it professed to provide. This was especially observable in the appropriations for defraying the various charges connected with the administration of justice. In these particulars the Assembly has applied retrenchment with a most unsparing hand, while in all matters connected with the patronage which they began to exercise in so remarkable a manner on passing the threshold of their chamber, they have exhibited a prodigality and profusion quite inconsistent with the idea, that a wise economy could have influenced the retrenchments subsequently made with so little regard to the efficiency of the departments into which they were carried, or indeed to their being upheld at all.

We humbly desire to lay before Your Majesty some few details, from whence, among others, we have drawn the foregoing conclusions, and trust that Your Majesty will thence perceive how necessary it has been for Your Majesty's Council to perform with firmness and decision a duty, ungracious, perhaps, in appearance, and exceedingly liable to be misconstrued.

Although the last Session of the Legislature, previous to the new elections, occupied nearly the same period of time during which the present General Assembly have been in Session, and although no less than 17 bills received the Governor's assent, and several others were introduced in either House which were not concurred in, yet the contingencies of the Assembly, including 300 *l.* voted to defray the expenses of members attending from the out-ports of the island, amounted to no more than 984 *l.* 9 *s.* 3 *d.* an ample sum considering the amount of our revenue, and the business accomplished; while the appropriation made by the Assembly for their contingencies this session, exceeds that amount by the large sum of 1,193 *l.* 13 *s.* 3 *d.* exclusive of a grant of 215 *l.* to indemnify such officers and servants of the Assembly, as had been appointed by the Executive Government, at the organization of the Legislature in 1833, but had been excluded from the performance of their duties to make way for persons appointed by themselves, being an excess over the preceding session of 1,408 *l.* 13 *s.* 3 *d.* to which may be added the sum of 500 *l.* voted to three of their own body as delegates, to proceed to England to "treat" with Your Majesty concerning certain alleged grievances, giving a grand total of 1,908 *l.* 13 *s.* 3 *d.* beyond what was appropriated by the former Assembly for their contingencies, the whole of which sum, if real economy were desired, might, without any detriment to the public service, have been applied to other objects, and we do not hesitate to assert that this lavish appropriation of the public money would be in many respects unjust and worse than useless.