

have that section altered and modified accordingly before it passes into a law, than to trust to other enactments to correct it.

I therefore beg leave respectfully to suggest that instead of declaring, as the section now does, all grants &c. null and void unless made upon sale &c. at public auction, the enactment be that in future all Crown Lands &c. to be sold or leased in the Province (except as therein after excepted) shall be sold or leased at public auction, after public notice given in the Royal Gazette and other papers for such length of time as the Act may direct, and in which notice the upset price shall be stated, leaving it to the Governor and Executive Council to fix what that shall be, and let the proviso for the exceptions in the Act to be therein after set out, provide in addition to what is now excepted therein, that nothing in this Act shall extend to disable His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors from making any grant or leases of land &c. by private sale or otherwise for the endowment of Churches, Schools or other public institutions in the Province not exceeding        number of acres to any one such institution ; and also the same exception to extend to any person or persons settled in the Province, who may, in the opinion of the Governor and Executive Council, have an equitable claim or preference arising from prior occupancy or improvement to any particular tract of ungranted land, so that the same do not exceed        number of acres to any one person, upon such person or persons paying for the same such price or sum, not less than        shillings per acre, as may be agreed on by the Governor and Executive Council; and also the same exception to extend to any Military, Naval or other officer under the Crown who may be entitled to a commuted allowance in land for his services according to the graduated scale, and upon the terms and conditions now or which may hereafter be established for such grants.

A provision in substance to the above effect in lieu of the present fifth section of the Bill, would I humbly conceive afford all the security that is requisite for the Province that the Lands will not be improvidently granted, and would at the same time relieve the Bill from the present objectionable clause.

I have now to apologize for thus trespassing so long upon Your Lordship's valuable time, but as I feel very anxious that this matter should be so arranged as both to satisfy the House of Assembly, and to protect the just claims of individuals, as also at the same time to afford the requisite security to the Crown, I have ventured thus at length to bring all the points that have occurred to the minds of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor and the Executive Council under Your Lordship's notice at one view, trusting to Your Lordship's indulgence for so doing. And I have only to add that if the Members of the House of Assembly could have divested their minds of the prejudice they have imbibed against the Executive of the Province, from an erroneous impression that we are opposed to the surrender of these Revenues, and have raised difficulties only to throw obstacles in the way of the measure being carried into effect, many of them, and I think a majority, would coincide in opinion with me as to the propriety of most, if not all of the alterations I have here suggested; and altho' I cannot but think it would be better, after Your Lordship has determined what provisions the Bill must contain for the security of the Government, to leave the rest broadly open for the Legislature of the Province (unshackled by any fixed form of a draft sent from this country) to prepare the Bill there, and to add such provisions of a local nature as they may think the interest of the Province requires, so as they