

individually, is concerned in their asserting to the full the privileges which the constitution has vested in them.

They observe, with pleasure, the declaration of his Lordship, in one part of his despatch, that His Majesty's Government has no right to interfere in the proceedings of the Council; and they should have felt most happy if the same conviction which dictated that declaration had also suggested, that no individual member can constitutionally be instructed upon the part which he may take in those proceedings. If, instead of being appointed to the Council for life, the members of that body had held their seats at the pleasure of His Majesty, it would seem but a reasonable consequence, that either that pleasure should be conclusively expressed, by absolutely removing the member, or that he should be left to be freely governed by his own discretion in respect to the frequency of his attendance in his place, as well as the extent to which he may participate in the acts and deliberations of the House.

The Legislative Council observes, that His Majesty's Secretary of State adverts in the despatch to a statement that Mr. Hume had excited expectations of certain measures in regard to this colony, which expectations ought not to be disappointed. Upon this point it is not unimportant, in the opinion of the Council, to observe, that if reliance could be placed on the same source of authority on which most of those assertions rest which have occupied so much of the attention of His Majesty's Government, Mr. Hume would indeed be responsible in no small degree for any discontent which may in time be produced in this province in respect to its constitution and government; but the Council sincerely trusts that it is not with truth represented that the measures beginning to be introduced into this prosperous colony for establishing political unions, which threaten alike the peace and the liberty of the people, are pursued under his recommendation; the Council, indeed, are bound at present to discredit it. It would be difficult to conceive what motives would justify, or what feeling could impel, any one of our fellow-subjects in England to such a proceeding. The people of Upper Canada are at this moment among the most favoured on earth; they enjoy peace, liberty, security and abundance, on a fertile soil and in a healthful climate, with an almost total exemption from burthens of any kind, and they enjoy these at a time when distress, tumults, and the prospect of war, occasion suffering and anxiety in most countries of the world.

If under these circumstances there can be any considerable number who are really not contented with their lot as inhabitants of Upper Canada, the only cause of their unhappiness must be, that they have not the disposition to be thankful.

The Legislative Council, after a perusal of this despatch of His Majesty's Secretary of State, has thus frankly expressed to your Excellency those sentiments which, if they had forborne to give them utterance, must nevertheless have remained impressed upon their minds. It is their earnest hope that they will not be thought to have departed, on this occasion of unusual delicacy, from that respect to His Majesty's Government of which they are conscious that the Legislative Council has never been unmindful. They do not entertain the thought that a Minister of the Crown can ever apply himself to the affairs of this colony with any other wish or intention than to do good, and they recognize in the voluminous despatch which has been placed before them the most anxious desire to place in their true point of view some questions to which the attention of His Majesty's Government had been called, not merely, as the Council is aware, by the representations of an individual, but by the petitions of a number of His Majesty's subjects in this province. For the desire thus shown, the Legislative Council cannot be otherwise than thankful; and they lament the more, that in a document in which an anxiety to allay prejudice is, on the whole, so manifest, occasion should have been given for the expression of deep regret at the impressions which some of its passages are calculated to produce. The Council, with the greatest deference to His Majesty's Government, beg further to add, that although they are far from thinking that no importance should be attached to the respectability of the source from whence information upon the public affairs of this colony, or the conduct of its government, is sought and derived, yet with respect to various opinions expressed, it would have seemed to the Council to evince a departure from all former usages, almost equally to be regretted, to have found His Majesty's Government involved in public discussions upon the com-