

should no longer be held as heretofore by the senior member of that body, but that his successor should be appointed directly by the Crown, and that he should be a member of the Executive Council, holding his office upon the same shifting tenure as other members of the Government.

The recommendation thus made was enforced by the argument that such a change had already been made in Canada, and in the adjoining Province of Nova Scotia.

It is true that in Canada such a system was adopted upon paper; but it was, the Lieutenant Governor believes, never carried into practice, and has now been abandoned in favor of another mode of selection.

As regards the practice of Nova Scotia, the Lieutenant Governor believes that some misconception must have arisen from the fact that the President of the Legislative Council is there appointed by the Crown, and that he was, in 1855, a member of the Executive Council,—but he is not so at the present time, nor is the tenure of his office affected by political changes.

Naturally desirous to assimilate the system pursued in New Brunswick with that of the adjoining Provinces, the late Lieutenant Governor recommended that the Queen should be advised to comply with the request of the Executive Council; and on the 4th May 1855, in a Despatch addressed to the Honorable J. H. T. Manders-Sutton, Lord John Russell, as Secretary of State for the Colonies, conveyed Her Majesty's sanction to the proposal.

No appointment has yet taken place under the new system. The gentleman who held the office of President in 1855 still continues to hold it, though the state of his health renders it probable that he may shortly desire to relinquish the duties of his office.

Meanwhile the Canadian Government has again altered the rule by which the Speaker of the Upper House is chosen in that Province, and the Executive Council of New Brunswick appear to have become alive to the objections that may be urged against the proposal of 1855.

The Executive Council are now of opinion that it would be undesirable to act upon the permission contained in Lord John Russell's Despatch of May 4, 1855, and they have requested the Secretary of State to consider a fresh proposal to the effect that the President of the Legislative Council should be chosen by the Legislative Council itself; and that, like the Speaker of the House of Assembly, he should at the commencement of every new Parliament be elected by the members of the body over which he is to preside. The plan thus recommended is identical with that now pursued in Canada.

This suggestion appears to the Lieutenant Governor to be free from many of the objections applying to that of 1855,—nor is he inclined to offer any opposition to the principle of allowing the appointment to be made by the Legislative Council, subject, of course, to Her Majesty's gracious approval. In the recommendation that the office should be held only during a single Parliament, the Lieutenant Governor is not, however, disposed to concur.

In such a country as this, a tendency to frequent changes is naturally strong. It could hardly be otherwise in a State where there are no Institutions which, from their antiquity and their inherent dignity, claim an involuntary respect, and where, consequently, the most material alterations may be effected without shocking traditional prejudice, or doing violence to long established habits. Under such circumstances it appears to the Lieutenant Governor to be unwise, without urgent necessity, to weaken any of those elements of stability which are to be found in the shifting materials of which Colonial society is composed. One of the most essential distinctions of the Legislative Council, if the Lieutenant Governor understands it aright, is its permanent character, as opposed to the changing nature of the House of Assembly. It is obvious that a frequent change in the person of its President is a diminution of this—as it appears to the Lieutenant Governor—valuable element in its composition.

It is true—and it does credit to their moderation and public spirit—that, in the event of the adoption of the plan now suggested, the Executive Council propose, in the first instance, to abstain from the introduction of political considerations into the election which must follow. It is also true, that some influential members of the Government have assured the Lieutenant Governor, that they have no desire to see frequent changes in the Chair of the Legislative Council, and indeed would deplore such a result of the present proposal. But unless the Lieutenant Governor is very much mistaken, the pressure of claimants for what would be looked upon as a fair share of office, would, in a short time, whatever were the