

I have been loudly accused of disrespect to the Colonial Secretary and Lieut. Governor.—But if I have merely exhibited their public acts from acknowledged documents, the imputation cannot justly rest on me without destroying that free discussion essential to the well-being of the country.

And here it is proper to say, that neither Sir Rupert George nor Mr. Fairbanks, has been directly or indirectly, party to or cognizant of anything I have done or said in relation to these affairs.

The introduction of the resolutions was the result of no hasty consideration and the responsibility of the measure rests on myself alone.

Some years since I perceived, and in debate stated, the difficulty which the present constitution of the Legislative Council would present to the perfect working of responsible government and in the moment that Earl Grey's despatch was read in the Assembly, concerning the Departmental Bill, I publicly declared in my place my opinion that the course he had adopted permanently affected the destinies of the province and the nature of its connection with the mother country.

Continued and mature deliberation having strengthened those opinions, at a comparatively early period of the late session, I gave verbal notice of my intention to introduce resolutions on the subject; and the resolutions themselves were fully decided upon and in preparation, before Lord John Russell's declaration relating to the Legislative Council of the Cape of Good Hope was known here or indeed had been made in Parliament.

They were not offered as a party measure, although this character was attempted to be fixed to them, and every member who usually support the government voted against them on the other side more freedom of opinion was exercised; and I listened to my friend Mr. Hall who could not adopt them entirely, with sincere pleasure, although without being changed in my own sentiments. As usual with him on such subjects, his vigor of mind and originality of thought and expression throw light and perspicuity on his arguments, while the characteristic honesty of purpose, and integrity of principle, which he exhibits in the Assembly were equally conspicuous.

I cannot conclude without bringing to your notice the statement of the Speaker, in debate that last Autumn, he was told, in the County of Annapolis, that so far had the principle of annexation advanced, that the next election there would be decided on that question. I was in the County much longer than he, and I received from none, such an intimation, nor hear such a sentiment. As far therefore as the observation was designed to suggest a dubious or partial motive for my movements in the house, it was made without just cause; nor is it surprising that the character of the communications he and I receive, and the nature of the impressions ~~on the mind~~ made on us in the County of Annapolis, should be very diverse, seeing that the sources ~~of the information~~ ~~are~~ ~~generally~~ ~~derived~~, are widely separated.

I mean not to say that the events of the last two years have not had in the county of Annapolis as in other parts of the province powerful influences as connected with our political relations with the mother country. These influences, I believe, I have, although briefly, faithfully portrayed in the conclusion of my speech.

In this, as in everything connected with the subject, I submit myself to the judgment of my constituents and my countrymen at large.

They may arrive at different, and perhaps sounder, conclusions than I have reached; they will not, I will venture to say, be actuated by a more earnest desire to promote the welfare of our common country.

I have the honor to be,

Very faithfully,

Your sincere and devoted servant,

J. W. JOHNSTON.

NOTE.—See p. 13.—In giving the Provincial Government credit for an increase of about £3000 in the revenue of 1849 over 1848 it might have been stated that in the session of 1849 there were increased duties imposed on dry goods, (being an addition on this important item of 25 per cent.,) on tea, and on molasses, probably more than adequate to make up the small increase in the revenue.

Division on Mr. Johnston's Resolutions—14 for; 26 against—majority 12.

For: Harrington, Blackadar, Campbell, Johnston, Freeman, Marshall, Crow, Bent, Moore, Snow, Budd, Thornton, Dickey, Ryder—14. Against: Henry, Doyin, Attorney General, Munro, Sangster, Coleson, McLeod, Robertson, Bournouff, Smyth, Kelly, Hall, Provincial Secretary, McKenna, McDonald, Ernst, Martell, Migowits, Card, Young, Fulton, Archibald, McDougall, Mott, Dincock, Brown—26.

Divisions on Mr. Howe's and the Speaker's amendments—23 for, 15 against—majority 8; being the same as above, except that Mr. Hall and Mr. Fulton voted against Mr. Howe's and the Speaker's amendments; and that Mr. McLeod, who voted against and Mr. Dickie who voted in favor of Mr. Johnston's resolutions, were absent at the divisions on the amendments.

Division on Mr. Fulton's amendment—for, 5; against, 24;—majority, 20. For: Fulton, Hall, Moore, Dickey, Ryder. The majority was made up of the other members.