

THE GENERAL LEGISLATURE.

We will now look for a moment at the construction of the general legislature. The Senate of the general legislature is to consist of seventy-two members, nominated by the Crown, and holding their seats for life. The united Colony is for this purpose arranged in three divisions, viz., Upper Canada, Lower Canada, and the Maritime Provinces, each represented by an equal number of Senators, twenty-four. The united population of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia is about 660,000, so that in this instance the estimate by population has been departed from, and as many Senators given to 660,000 people in the Lower Provinces as have been apportioned to 1,802,000 in Upper, or 1,288,000 in Lower Canada. This has been a wise and judicious arrangement, but at the same time every upright and reflecting man must be constrained to acknowledge, that on the part of the Canadas, it has also been a generous and magnanimous one. By the Quebec Scheme Nova Scotia and New Brunswick were each to have had ten members and Prince Edward Island four. By the Act they have each twelve, so that the voice of the Lower Provinces in the Senate will be, numerically speaking, as authoritative, as if it comprised Prince Edward Island.

In the House of Assembly, or as it is to be called the House of Commons, the whole number of members will consist of 181; viz., 82 for Upper Canada, 65 for Lower Canada, 19 for Nova Scotia, and 15 for New Brunswick. An attempt, as disingenuous as it is unreasonable, has been made to persuade our people that by this method of distribution, their voice and influence will be lost; for what say they, can Nova Scotia effect with the aid of 19 votes only out of 181? The population of Nova Scotia, as has been already stated, is 370,000, so that she will have on an average one member to each 20,000 of her people. The population of Canada, Upper and Lower, is about 3,090,000, the number of members 146, giving precisely the same ratio. In the distribution of the seats of a House, which is intended to represent the popular element alone, it would have been an absurdity and a practical paradox, to adopt any other system than that based upon population. Any other scheme would have been an insult and a wrong to one party or another, which would of necessity