

five years they had increased the public debt £46,000, and that great caution was now necessary, and economy on every subject that would bear it. The revenue had been declining for the last four years; he hoped that it had now reached its maximum, and that it would re-ascend, and that a greater sum would be realized for the present year than he expected.

Mr G. Smith spoke for a while, but it is generally impossible to catch, in the gallery, what the humble gentleman says.

Mr Wilkins expressed his regret at observing the hon. member for Sydney, giving his powerful mind to trifles while so many important matters claimed his attention, and might be grappled by him with good effect. He felt pain.

To see him toiling for his country's good,
Which grew no better though 'twas time it should

The debt which they had heard so much of, was not fairly attributable to the last House,—as had been proved, but to circumstances over which that body had no controul. He believed that the Revenue of the country had never yet recovered the effects of the Brandy dispute. The epidemic also caused heavy charges. If the debt was high, and was partly attributable to expenditures which might have been avoided, did not much benefit accrue to the country in the improvement of internal communication? and if so, the debt could not be considered as a total loss. The appropriation act was not the proper field for a reformer, he should fly at higher game in a wider field. In the appropriation act he defied him to put his finger on more than one charge that would admit of retrenchment; there might be one, he alluded to an annual charge for contingent expenses of the Governor. He had supposed that this grant had been made to meet certain expenses during the year; he found that was not the case, that it was a mere gratuity to swell the Governor's emoluments. If they were sitting under a new governor, one who had not received it in former years, he would advise that this should be struck off. When the Casual and Territorial revenues should be surrendered, that would be the time to reform and retrench, and to fix on a good scale of remuneration. He would respect existing salaries during the time of the existing incumbents, a prospective measure might arrange for a future time.

Mr J. Young asked Mr Wilkins to lay his finger on any subject on which he would be willing to reform.

Mr Wilkins said the burden rested with the member for Sydney; let him point out items and convince him (Mr W.) that they should be altered, and he would go with him. Officiousness in these matters would come with a bad grace from him (Mr W.) who had been an out and out tory, and a supporter of abuses; however, he could lay his hand on his heart and say that he was not of that character.

Mr B. Smith moved in amendment that the sum of £200, including pay as a member, be given to the Speaker for this year. Beside reducing items of the civil list to serve the revenue, new taxes might be laid on some articles, such as broadcloths, silks, and such things, used by the rich, while the agricultural and fishing classes should be encouraged.

Mr Dodd spoke against the reduction. They wasted more time than the proposed retrenchment was worth. They cost the country about £30 a day, and this was the second day of discussing this item. The Speaker had received £200 a year for thirty years back; the country was as rich now as when it was first given, and the duties of the chair had greatly increased.

Mr Howe wished for some general measure. (He dwelt for some time on member's pay, the necessity for it, and the reduction.) He was sorry that there seemed so much difference between the two Chancellors of the Exchequer; the mode of exhibiting the accounts he thought was to blame. He recollected that the Master of the Rolls, when in that house, devised a balance sheet which greatly simplified examination; the same might be beneficially adopted now. All were anxious to bring expenses within a moderate compass. It was mortifying to see how little the House could either grant or withhold; every House, he thought, had been grossly negligent in allowing the permanent charges on the Province to accumulate as they had done.

He would submit a scheme of reducing which might be some guide. A clear saving of £1200 might be made on the abolition of the Militia system; from the disposition to reduce the grants to the Stage Coaches, he put down £200 from that service; the Chaplain's pay, already saved, £25; that however was not at all a matter of economy, but of principle. He perceived, that £100 for the Clerk of the Council was not on the estimate, he supposed the Secretary withdrew that item, so that he would set it down as another saving; a feeling existed in favour of striking off £35 additional allowed the gauger and weigher, he included that therefore in his list. The governor's

contingency, (It appears that a former House of Assembly wished to make a present to a former Governor, and found that he could not receive it consistently with his instructions; they therefore, as had been often done before and has been since, did that by artifice which could not be done openly, and granted £250 for contingencies!) this Mr. Howe said, he thought might be struck off, and that his Excellency would willingly give it up. He proposed this more readily, for he found that the Province was charged £186 for articles about Government House, some of which he wondered to see charged; he would not read the items, but if they called the Commissioner to their bar for paying the sums, perhaps they would not be going too far. Besides this sum of 186l, he saw a charge on the Casual revenue of £160 for the private Secretary of the Governor: this was another reason why he thought the contingent vote need not be passed. As by an Act of the Session they had decided that the place of Judge Wiswell should not be supplied, they had thus saved £400, and £100 travelling expenses. He put down another 25l, on the supposition that that sum would be taken from the salary of the Speaker, or of the Attorney General. These items were all beside the extensive reductions which they hoped to accomplish at another opportunity, when the surrender of the revenues should place in their power. In this way however, he found that a sum of £2390 might be saved. The drawback allowed to the officers of the garrison on the wines which they used, had been spoken of, but he was not inclined to touch that. By contemplated reductions in the Judiciary, considerable savings might be effected at future opportunities; and also by the junction of the exchequer with the treasury, on which subject he had prepared a resolution, providing for the appointment of a committee to inquire into the proposed junction, which committee should report during next session. Something handsome might be saved in this manner, £2300 immediately, and 2500l in prospect.

Mr W. Young said, he did not think it fair that the reduction of members' pay should be alluded to as it had been. About 100l was thus saved to the Province; the House should sit 62 days before each member could draw 42l. After some remarks on the debt of the Province, Mr Young concluded by supporting the motion for retrenchment; it was a duty, however painful.

Mr Uniacke said there seemed a great desire in some to mystify the House. The assertion that the debt was occasioned by a vicious legislature, was not founded on fact. The debt was diminishing year by year; the charges made against the House were not true. In 1830, the balance against the Province was 28,000; in 1831, 46,000; in '32—'34, 82,000l; '35, 81,000l; '36, 80,000l. The collision between the branches in 1830 greatly increased this debt, as did the mad canal scheme. He had been early taught not to expect much from that project; his father used to say, Going to dam the Shubenacadie, indeed! that is the only thing that they will not damn! Causes for the increase of the debt, independent of vicious legislation, had been repeatedly pointed out, but with no effect—still the cry of the debt was coupled with the last House. There were, the collision between the branches, the canal grants and loan interest, the issues of paper for roads and bridges, and the Epidemic. In 1834, the notes out amounted to 68,000l, the debt to 56,000. A party which persisted in pressing on the House, obliged it to take a wise step and to reduce the amount of the paper money of the Province. The debt had actually decreased of late years, although it had been made to appear so formidable, and as it were increasing.

Mr W. Young explained, as to the 46,000l additional debt; they issued 25,000l in paper, took 15,000l from the saving Bank, and borrowed 6,000l more in other quarters.

Mr Uniacke persisted that the debt was decreasing. In 1835 it was 81,000l, now 80,000l. He acknowledged that the member for Sydney did not understand cyphering—but somehow his sums were not always correct. It was often hard to ascertain the debt of his speeches, whether a charge or an insinuation had been made: He spoke of vicious legislation, but declared that he made no attack upon the last House. The reason which that hon. gentleman gave for voting for the 15000l to the Shubenacadie Canal, was that he was willing to sacrifice Englishmen for the benefit of the country! That was pretty legislation, to lay down a scheme to deceive, which would be fully developed in 1840! According to his very senatorial proverb, of not gutting fish before catching them, the committee of supply could not vote a shilling, because they had no funds in hands. The commerce of the town was in a good state, and a continuation might be expected for the ensuing year. He approved of the plan proposed by the hon. gentleman for the County of Halifax.—Respecting the popularity of Reform, which had been denied, if there were no Journals kept, or no open

gallery for an audience, they would not hear much of reform, or only such reforms as those when they doubled their pay in closed doors. He had been anxious since he first took a seat in the House, to support proper retrenchment; the member from Sydney seemed to think that he was the only reformer: reformers had been spoken of, who, one minute struck off £10 from the pay of the Sergeant at Arms, and the next, voted 750l to the Militia Inspecting Field Officers! He was most amused at the Member for Sydney declaring that he was not Joe Warner. But he must know something of that character, for he said, that Joe Warner was not within these walls! if he did not know who that writer was, how could he tell where he was, or was not?

Mr John Y. rose, and said that this was not the place to discuss such topics. Had not the House decided that they should not introduce matters from the public papers into debates? The public papers was the place to attack the writer alluded to, if he (Mr U) wished to do so, not in that House.

Mr Uniacke said, he was too old a soldier to go to the "Papers" with his remarks. He certainly invoked the spirit of Joe Warner on a late evening,—he wanted to find that licitor, that he might point out one of the member for Sydney's acts, as a fit subject for his reprobation. That member seemed to know where Joe Warner was, he would hear more about him before the session was over. He saw no reason why they should pursue a system by which 25l would be deducted from the Speaker's salary.

Mr Huntingdon answered very warmly to some allusions at which he had taken offence.

Mr Doyle thought that the people of the country were deceived respecting the power of the House;—they did not know that so many officers were provided for by permanent statutes. The plan proposed by the member for Halifax would give general satisfaction.

Mr Lewis spoke, but in too low a key.

Mr Holland expressed his readiness to support any system which would benefit the public. He did not like to take up particular items. He would willingly lessen his own pay, or give it up, if need be. He did not come to the House to make money; but he would tell them what he came for, although they might laugh at him,—'twas to see fair play between Whigs and Tories. He did not like to single out two or three sums and then stop.

The amendment was then put, and carried.

Mr Doyle said, that he would move for the rescinding of last resolution, and that the proposed reduction should be off the Attorney General.

Mr Doyle moved that 150l be granted to the Attorney General for the present year, in place of 225l. The Attorney General, besides, received 400l from the Casual Revenue.

Mr Uniacke said that the former Attorney General was better remunerated. The sum of 225l was too little for the services for which it was granted. They had better expunge the grant altogether than reduce it. The 225l was given as part of a compact;—to lessen it would be injustice.

Mr Doyle said that the Attorney General held this office until something better could be provided for him—he might soon leave the office and be succeeded by another. None would object to the elevation;—it would advance him a step nearer the bench.

Mr Howe said he did not object to the sum which the Speaker received out of the Casual Revenue;—while it went to Tom, Dick, and Harry, the more he got the better.

Mr Stewart was explaining that the grant of 225l given, as we understood him, for some services not strictly Provincial, when the Speaker came from his room into the House.

The Honorable Speaker said, that he was sorry any thing connected with himself should occupy the time of the House. The Speakership was in their hands, they might attach any salary they wished to it, or none; but he thought the office of Attorney General was differently situated, and might change hands soon—he therefore was desirous to explain: Misrepresentation had been circulated respecting the emoluments of the Attorney General. It was well known that power might be exercised in that department, and that fees might be made,—he appealed to every part of the country to say whether the power of the Crown were felt oppressive, since he came to office. He followed the course marked out by his predecessor, and did not press on any unnecessarily. At the time that 150l was paid, the Attorney General had fees on all grants of lands made in the Island of Cape Breton, and on seizures whenever he was called upon to file a Bill. The Home Government had fixed the salary at 600l a year, and they enquired what was paid by the Province.—The answer was, 200l sterling; that sum had been paid to his predecessor, in lieu of charges which used to be made for daily opinions given to the officers of Government, and which consumed much time. This was previous to the additional duties of Cape Breton. Mr