

“ produce, and that the balance alone, after such payment, is to be paid over to the Colonial Officers.

“ Although the objections which have been made, that the expense of collection does not include the Salaries of the Officers, and that the Officers are not requisite for Colonial purposes, cannot, in the opinion of His Majesty's Government, be supported, yet the Lieutenant-Governor has been expressly commanded to acquaint the House of Assembly, that it never was intended, nor is it now proposed, that a larger charge for Officers Salaries, should, in consequence of the abolition of fees, be imposed on this Province ; still less that the Mother Country should derive pecuniary advantage from the change ; and all that is desired by His Majesty's Government is, that the relief, which it has been their desire to afford to the Colonies, by the abolition of fees, should not be made the means of additional and unreasonable burthens upon the Revenue at home.

“ To show to what extent relief has been afforded to the Colonies, generally, by this measure, it is necessary to remark, that the sums levied in the several ports in the shape of fees, on shipping, previous to the 6th Geo. 4, amounted to about £108,000, while the total of the new and reduced Salaries of Officers of Customs, proposed to be defrayed out of the Colonial Revenue, amounts to no more than £78,000.

“ It is also proper to observe, that fees to a large amount, heretofore paid to the Naval Officers in the several Colonies, have been abolished, and that the compensation to these Officers, in lieu of those fees, is now paid out of the Revenue of Great Britain ; the compensation so paid in the last year amounted to £5,600 : 16 : 4 $\frac{3}{4}$.

“ The Lieutenant-Governor has been further instructed to acquaint the House of Assembly, that His Majesty's Government, with every disposition to give due weight to the observations which have been urged by the Colonies, have not failed to notice the statements made relative to the burthen under the former system, not being wholly borne by the Colonies.

“ His Majesty's Government have not however deemed it necessary that the exact proportions in which the fees on shipping were a tax upon the Colony, and the Mother Country, should be precisely defined.

“ To the extent of that proportion which fell upon the Colony, the repeal of them has been a measure of Colonial relief, and that relief will be further extended by the addition now proposed to be made to the charges on the Revenue at home.

“ His Majesty's Government have also consented that the Crown Revenues should continue to be charged with the incidental expences of the collection of the Customs, and with the compensation which it has been found necessary to assign to the Customs Officers, whose Salaries have been reduced ; and if there should be any Colony in which the Salaries to the Officers exceed the amount of fees formerly levied, it is not intended that the excess should be defrayed by the Colony.

“ With these qualifications, however, it has appeared to His Majesty's Government by no means an unreasonable expectation, that the Colonies should either acquiesce in the deduction from the duties received in the Colony of the adequate Salaries now fixed for the Officers, or should themselves, which will be equally satisfactory, make a permanent provision for the Officers to that amount.

“ By the adoption of either alternative, the additional expense thrown upon the Mother Country will not be extravagant, and the Customs Officers enjoying Salaries which are considered moderate, will still be placed in that state of independence which is essential to the due discharge of their duty.

“ The Lieutenant-Governor is further instructed to acquaint the Assembly, that His Majesty's Government have deemed it advisable to postpone recommending to Parliament any amendment of the Act 6th Geo. 4, c. 114, until they shall have before them the further proceedings of the Colonies on the subject, since the nature of that amendment must necessarily, in a great degree, depend upon the course which the several Colonies may pursue.

“ The Lieutenant-Governor is also directed to lay before the House a detail of the charge for Salaries heretofore defrayed by fees levied in this Province, and that now proposed to be borne out of the duties raised in the Colonies, and of the Salaries, compensation and expenses proposed to be defrayed by the Crown or out of the Revenue