

First Report. ances, and two county registrars of deeds and conveyances, are also representatives of the people in the present Parliament.

Weakness of the Assembly ; dangerous extent of executive influence. When it is considered, that the executive go-

vernment have the control of a very large revenue unchecked by the representative branch of the legislature ; that its officers enjoy incomes out of all proportion with the means of the country to pay ; that the judges have been made independent of the annual votes of the assembly by a bill passed during the present session, without their dependance on the executive having been in any degree lessened ; that the executive appoints to very many influential and lucrative situations, and may at a breath deprive its officers of their places ; that bishops, priests, judges, and all other public functionaries look chiefly to the government for retired allowances or pensions, and not to the House of Assembly ; that those vast tracts of land, known as the crown and clergy reserves, are in the gift, or under the direction and management of the local government, and clergy corporation, without any effectual check being placed in the hands of the Assembly against favouritism ; that the appointment to honorary distinctions in the militia, is in the gift of the lieutenant governor ; that the direction of education is chiefly in the hands of the executive government and a clergy politically dependant thereon ; and that the province bank is virtually under the same executive control, it becomes so much the more essential on the part of the people that the representation in their House should be as perfect as possible. The cases of Judge Willis, Capt. Matthews, and Mr. George Rolph (among many others recorded on the journals of the provincial parliament) afford abundant proof of the great extent of the influence of the executive, and the comparative feebleness of the powers of the House of Assembly.

Case of Mr. Justice Willis, &c.

On extending the elective franchise.

It appears to your committee, that the elective privilege ought to be enjoyed by that class who contribute towards the support of the government, and who have therefore a just right to a voice in the mode of applying what they pay ; and to that other class who by education and their connexions in life are most likely to choose representatives of talent and integrity ; but the act 31st George 3rd, puts it out of the power of the colonial legislature to extend the elective franchise to any householder in the counties, unless where