

the public money, to the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury in England, and not to this House, nor according to its votes, or even in conformity to the Laws passed by the Provincial Legislature;—and that the accounts and statements laid before this House from time to time, have never assumed the shape of a regular system of balanced accounts, but have been drawn up one after another, (with such alterations and irregularities as it pleased the administration of the day to introduce into them,) from the accounts kept with the Lords of the Treasury, in which the whole money received was included as well as all public items of expenditure, whether authorized or unauthorized by the Provincial Legislature.

That the pretensions and abuses aforesaid, have taken away from this House, even the shadow of control over the Public Revenue of the Province, and have rendered it impossible for it to ascertain at any time the amount of Revenue collected, the disposable amount of the same, and the sums required for the public service:—and that the House having, during many years passed Bills, of which the models are to be found in the Statute Book of Great Britain, to establish a regular system of accountability and responsibility in the department connected with the receipt and expenditure of the Revenue, these Bills have failed in the Legislative Council.

That since the last Session of the Provincial Parliament, the Governor in Chief of this Province, and the Members of the Executive Government, relying on the pretensions above mentioned, have, without any lawful authority, paid large sums out of the Public Revenue subject to the control of this House; and that the said sums were divided according to their pleasure, and even in contradiction to the votes of this House, as incorporated in the Supply Bill passed by it during the last Session, and rejected by the Legislative Council:—For which sums as well as for all others paid otherwise than under the authority of an Act of the Legislature, or upon an address of this House, out of the Public Revenue of the Province, this House owes it to its constituents to hold all those who may have authorized such payments or participated therein responsible, until the said sums shall have been reimbursed, or a Bill or Bills of Indemnity freely passed by this House, shall have become Law.

That the course adopted by this House in the Supply Bill, passed during the last Session, of attaching certain conditions to certain votes, for the purpose of preventing the cumulation of incompatible offices in the same persons, and of obtaining the redress of certain abuses and grievances (which has been blamed by His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonial Department in one of his Despatches,) is, in our humble opinion, wise and constitutional, and has frequently been adopted by Your Honorable House, under analogous circumstances; and that if the Commons of England do not now so frequently recur to it, we have reason to believe that it is because they have happily obtained the entire control of the revenue of the nation; and because the respect shown to their opinions with regard to the redress of grievances and abuses, by the other constituted authorities, has regulated the working of the Constitution in a manner equally adapted to give stability to His Majesty's Government, and to protect the interests of the people.

It is from these motives which Your Honorable House will not, we hope, deem trivial,—and for the purpose of obtaining the redress of the grievances under which the country suffers that we determined in the present conjuncture to withhold the supplies, according to the ancient practice of Your Honorable House; and in thus following your example, we believe ourselves warranted in our proceeding as well by approved precedents as by the spirit of the Constitution itself.

We beg leave further to represent to Your Honorable House that, although the number of the inhabitants of this Province of French origin, is seven or eight times that of those of British or Foreign origin, the establishment of the Civil Government of Lower Canada for the year one thousand eight hundred and thirty-two, (and which is now nearly the same,) contained according to the yearly returns made by the Provincial Administration the names of one hundred and seventy-five Officers receiving Salaries, who are apparently of British or Foreign origin, and the names of forty-seven who are, apparently, natives of the Country of French origin.—That this statement does not exhibit the whole disproportion which exists in the distribution of the public money and power;—the latter class being for the most part appointed to the inferior and less lucrative offices, and most frequently only obtaining even these, by becoming the dependents of those who hold the higher and more lucrative offices. That the cumulation of many of the best paid and most influential, and