

than a dependent and subordinate authority. Further, such officers would be virtually irresponsible and independent.

On this subject, however, His Majesty commands me to state, that there is no information connected with the receipt and expenditure of any part of the revenue of Upper Canada, which He wishes to withhold from the representatives of the Canadian people. You will, immediately on your arrival in the province, apprise the heads of every public department by which any such funds are received or administered, that they must constantly keep in preparation, to be produced to the Assembly, in compliance with any addresses which may be presented to you by that House, copies and abstracts of all public accounts; and you will consider in what form these can be drawn up, so as to exhibit all material information in the most complete and luminous manner. It will, perhaps, be possible to concert with the House beforehand some system for preparing such returns; and as often as they may present to you addresses for such information, you will promptly accede to their wishes, except in the extreme case, which it is difficult to suppose, of any demand of that nature being made in such a form that the compliance with it would endanger some great public interest.

11. The report then passes to the consideration of cases in which your predecessor is charged with having failed to show respect, even in subordinate matters, to the wishes of the House of Assembly.

I will not encumber this communication by entering into a review of the particular transactions noticed by the committee in illustration of this complaint; I am not, indeed, sufficiently in possession of the facts to enable me to do so; nor do I think it convenient to combine a personal discussion with a general statement of the principles by which your conduct is to be governed.

The only general direction that I have to give you on this subject is, that you will always receive the addresses of the Assembly with the most studious attention and courtesy: as far as may be consistent with your duty to the King, you will accede to their wishes cheerfully and frankly. Should that duty ever compel you to differ from their opinion, or to decline compliance with their desires, you will explain in the most direct, and of course in the most conciliatory terms, the grounds of your conduct.

12. The next topic of complaint is, that many of the recommendations contained in Lord Ripon's despatch of the 8th November 1832, have not been carried into effect. Amongst these are especially mentioned such as relate to the amendment of the election laws, the non-interference of His Majesty's officers at elections, the disclosure to the House of the receipt and expenditure of the Crown revenue, the exclusion of ministers of religion from the Legislative and Executive Councils, the reducing the costs of elections, the judicial independence, and the limitation of the number of public officers who may sit in the Assembly.

Adhering, without reserve or qualification, to all the instructions issued under His Majesty's commands by Lord Ripon, the King is pleased to direct that you do adopt that despatch as a rule for the guidance of your own conduct; and that you exert your legitimate authority and influence to the utmost possible extent, to carry into effect all such of his Lordship's suggestions as may still continue unfulfilled.

13. The selection of justices of the peace is said to "have been made chiefly from persons of a peculiar bias in politics, and to be the means of extending the power and influence of the colonial system." It is not in my power to verify the accuracy of this opinion; and I am happy to feel myself relieved from the necessity of such an investigation. If any such abuse exists, it cannot be too promptly or decisively remedied. Whenever any increase of the number may appear to you desirable, you will propose to any gentleman in Upper Canada, possessing the necessary qualifications of knowledge, property and character, and unquestionable fidelity to the Sovereign, the assumption of the office of a justice of the peace, without reference to any political considerations.

14. A very considerable part of the report is devoted to the statement and illustration of the fact that the executive government of Upper Canada is virtually irresponsible; and the conclusion drawn from this statement is, that under the present system there can be no prospect of a good and faithful administration of public affairs.

Without entering on the one hand unnecessarily into a discussion of those general principles to which my attention is thus invited, or digressing, on the other hand, into personal topics, it is enough for me to observe on the present