

think proper to call for. Nothing is gained by concealment upon questions of this nature, and a degree of suspicion and prejudice is not rarely excited, which, however ill founded, often appears in the result to be incurable.

Mr. M'Kenzie condemns the present House of Assembly not less vehemently than the Local Government and the Legislative Council, representing that they were chosen by the people in a state of dejection and despondency as to the reform of abuses. To sustain his argument, he is thus compelled to draw a picture of the Canadian character, in which I am confident he does His Majesty's subjects at large great injustice. I am well persuaded that no people on earth are less likely to yield themselves to the unmanly weakness of despairing of the public good, and of betraying their own most sacred duties in so pusillanimous a spirit; and in truth Mr. M'Kenzie must have persuaded himself that a degree of ignorance exists in this country respecting the affairs of Canada, which would be absolutely ludicrous, if he can really expect credit for the statement, that in the year 1830, an utter despair of vindicating the public liberties had taken possession of the minds of the inhabitants.

I deeply regret that in some parts of his papers Mr. M'Kenzie should have left in much obscurity the simple matters of fact which it might have been really important to consider. Thus he speaks of "preachers taught to meddle in the political quarrels of factions and parties, and of their leaders being accommodated with seats in the political councils of the state," and of the government "keeping in pay a political priesthood." It would have surely been as impressive, and more useful, to have stated, that the bishop and the archdeacon are both on the list of the Legislative Council, but that it is expected of those gentlemen that they should altogether abstain from interference in any secular matters which may be agitated at that Board. Whether, even under this restriction, their holding such seats is really desirable, is a question upon which I am fully prepared to listen with the utmost attention to any advice which I may receive from yourself, from the House of Assembly, or from any other competent authority. I have no solicitude for retaining either the bishop or the archdeacon on the list of councillors; but am, on the contrary, rather predisposed to the opinion, that by resigning their seats they would best consult their own personal comfort, and the success of their designs for the spiritual good of the people. But any such resignation must be voluntary, since the office is held for life; and were it otherwise, no consideration could induce me to advise His Majesty to degrade the bishop or the archdeacon from the stations they occupy, except on the most conclusive proof of misconduct. But even Mr. M'Kenzie does not impute any violation of duty to them. With respect to the charge of showing an undue preference to teachers of religion belonging to the Established Church of this country, it is so utterly at variance with the whole course of policy which it has been the object of my despatches to yourself to prescribe, that I cannot pause to repel it in any formal manner.

Much complaint is made of the expense of elections; and it is said, that public officers are enabled, by their superior affluence, to overpower by a lavish and corrupt expenditure, those who have no other recommendation than their personal character. If there is the least foundation for this complaint as to the expense of elections (which I have not the means of ascertaining), you will signify to the legislative bodies, that it is the earnest desire and recommendation of His Majesty, that every practicable method should be taken for correcting what would be so great an evil, by reducing the cost of elections within the narrowest possible limits. I cannot, however, omit observing, that even if it should turn out to be true, that the cost of elections is as great as it is represented to be, the official return of the civil establishment of the colony sufficiently shows, that it is quite impossible that the salaries received by public servants can enable them to avail themselves of this circumstance in the manner which has been alleged.

Mr. M'Kenzie states, that an inquiry into the state of the representation was instituted by the present House of Assembly on his own motion, and he has transcribed the resolutions adopted by the Committee; but he adds, that "such propositions were not suitable to the majority in the present Assembly;" that they appointed a new committee, which reported that no alterations were required in the existing laws, except by giving the County of York one additional member, and that on receiving this report, the House, instead of giving York a member, took one from it, and, as I understand, increased the number of members for the district of Bathurst. It suits the present views of this gentleman to call upon  
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