

for the civil list. The province had great resources. In the House of Commons, the opposition had always objected that this province ought to defray its expenses. That opposition had now become the ministry, and he had no reason to think that they had changed their views. If the House were to give the Ministry legitimate information respecting the resources and wishes of the country, he, (Mr B.) thought they would concede the point. These revenues were now dwindling away, and bye and bye perhaps the House would be called on to pay its provincial expenses. It was unreasonable and unjust that the people of Great Britain should pay those expenses. When our establishment presses hard on the country then we shall be called on to pay them ourselves, when perhaps our resources will not be sufficient. The sooner, then, the House proposes the matter, the better. He (Mr B.) thought if such a petition had been sent home last year, the house would have been honoured with a very different despatch in reply. He thought it was not in the power of the Lieutenant-Governor to give the desired information, except by the authority of the Colonial Minister; unless he had received another despatch very lately. But it appeared proper to seek the information in that quarter first, and if it was refused, then it should be followed by petition to the throne.—As to the Crown Lands; he could not agree with Mr Weldon to make it a subject of a separate petition or application. The very nature of that office was such that it could not be without evil as long as it existed in its present state; but if the house succeeded in their object, that office would come under its controul, and then the grievances might be redressed. He thought it better to preface the resolution by some preamble.

Mr SLASON thought a resolution of some sort necessary; but advised the present to be withdrawn and amended. He thought there should be some prelude to it; and agreed generally with the views of Messrs. Taylor and Brown. The hon. member made some other observations which we could not hear.

Mr SCOTT opposed the resolution as extremely improper, and considered the house had nothing to do with the matters contained therein, and no right to ask information respecting them. If the House thought proper that these revenues should come under their controul, they should petition his Majesty; but he did not think the province ready for such a measure. The hon. member then made some remarks as to the many charges made against public officers, which, he said were very grievous, and had been urged ever since he sat in that House. He thought, however, if the hon. member for Charlotte, (Mr Clinch,) had taken the pains to enquire into the truth of the various evils he had alleged, he would find that the fault did not lie with the officers in question. He (Mr S.) thought them not at all to blame. The hon. member then made some animadversions on the timber trade; which he stigmatized as a ruin of the country; asking what advantage had the country ever derived from shipping timber from it? It had ruined thousands of people; and whenever an insolvent debtor was met with, he was sure to have been a timber merchant. The hon. member then advocated the policy of laying a tax on British Merchandise as a remedy for such an alarming evil. He (Mr S.) did not care if the timber duty was even higher than it is.

Mr EXP confessed his mind had been in a floating state on this question, but he had now, from all he had heard advanced, come to a conclusion to vote against the resolutions. He thought the question not only very important, but that it involved difficulties which would prove very dangerous. It had a direct tendency to bring on the province a liability to provide for its civil list, for which he thought few hon. members were prepared. As to the right to the controul of casual revenues &c. being in the House, he thought that in matter of fact and in matter of law such opinions were not maintainable. Most of those then on the floor of that House had received grants of land, which grants ran in the name of his Majesty. In law it was not allowable for a tenant to question the title of his lordship; and they had all become tenants in common socage to his Majesty. The King had as much right to the crown lands and casual revenues of this province, as he had to the royal forest, and demesne lands in England. But it had been said, that the House would be called on to pay the civil list, and that then they would have the controul of certain lands given to them; and it had been also said, that in the mean time they should watch the disposal of the revenues in question. He (Mr E.) perfectly agreed with that opinion. He thought it very proper; and if the House intended to

go into an investigation of the matter, they should do it in a deliberate manner. They should appoint a Committee to enquire into the subject in all its bearings, and to report thereon.—The hon. member then observed, that the doctrines of the hon. member for Charlotte (Mr Clinch,) had been founded on misinformation. The crown office positively was under the controul of the Executive of the province; of which the hon. member (Mr E) related an instance in proof, which, however, we did not clearly gather. It should not, therefore, be presumed that the office itself was so omnipotent.—The resolutions, however, had effected some good. They had elicited streams of eloquence from all parts of the House, and had particularly enabled the hon. member from Charlotte to make his annual offering, his annual speech to the gentlemen in the corner. [The reporter confesses he cannot pretend to explain this latter dubious allusion.] It really was difficult for any public officer to know what to do. If he did a thing one way, he was blamed by one party; and if he did it otherwise, he was blamed by another party. [We often feel the truth of this remark.—*Reporter*.] The hon. member concluded, by stating his opposition to the resolutions.

Mr HAYWARD thought the House had no legal right in the case in question. He considered some preamble to the resolution necessary, and hoped the hon. Mover would amend it so as to meet the views of the House.

Mr CUNARD was against the resolution, because it would answer no end. No information would be derived from the step. He thought the House would be asking information which his Excellency could not grant. He thought nobody could question the right of the crown in this case, and that if the House desired the controul, it should petition his Majesty. When such a petition came before the House would be the time to enquire whether they would pay the civil list.

Mr WYER was of opinion that the House were bound to obtain information respecting all the revenues of the Province, direct or indirect. Those revenues were all collected from the people at large, and they ought to know how they were expended. He believed, that at one time, the income of the commissioner of crown lands exceeded that of the Executive of the Province; which was most improper. If the House could not obtain information otherwise, they should petition his Majesty; and if even that did not do, they should apply to the imperial parliament.

Mr KINNEAR seconded the amendment, and replied at some length to the arguments of the opposers of the resolutions, supporting his former views and statements.

Mr. PARTELOW was now perfectly ready to go with the resolution, in its amended form.

After some few words from Messrs. Clinch, End and Weldon, the first resolution and amendment was carried, by a majority of 10.

The names were taken, and are as follow: Yeas, Messrs. Simonds, Dow, Hill, Clinch, Brown, Wyer, Rankin, Gilbert, Hayward, Mills, Taylor, Slason, Kinnear, S. Humbert, Barlow, Ward, Partelow, and J. Humbert—13.

Nays—Messrs. Scott, Weldon, End, Smith, Chandler, Cunard, Allen and Vail—8.

The second resolution was then carried without amendment or division.

February 13.

#### BISHOP OF NEW-BRUNSWICK.

Mr. SIMONDS wished to call the attention of the House to a fact which required serious notice. A petition was at that moment going about Fredericton for signatures, the object of which was to pray his Majesty to appoint a Bishop for this Province. This was a subject of great importance. Several hon. members, he believed, had been applied to for their signatures to the petition, and some had affixed them. He therefore wished the house in some way to express their opinion on the subject. He thought the appointment of a Bishop would prove a serious injury to the Province at large and to the established Church, as it would cause a very great additional public expense.—The time was not, perhaps, far distant, when the House would be called on to pay all public expenses. The crown revenues might, in a few years, be reduced

to a very trifling sum. Suppose the province should lose its timber trade. Its trade in general would be annihilated, and the crown lands would then furnish no resource, from which to pay the salary of a bishop. He thought therefore, the House should adopt some resolution, and take some steps to defeat such a project as he had mentioned. If effectual, it would give great dissatisfaction throughout the Province. He was surprised that the thing should have been got up in such a hasty and partial manner, without consulting the opinion of the Province at large. None of the counties had been consulted on this measure; which he thought a very injurious one.

Mr SLASON thought all that Mr. Simonds should do in this case would be, to express his assent or dissent to the petition, by signing it or refusing to do so. The house could not interfere in the matter. There was nothing before it, to justify its so doing. Hon. members individually might sign the petition or not. Many things might be said against the opinions urged by Mr. Simonds; but if this matter came before the house at all it should be by petition. There certainly were objections to a bishop superintending the Church in this Province, who resided in Nova-Scotia, and there was a great necessity for a bishop here. The revenues of the province were not very large; but might be provided for in the way as in other countries, where they are not so rich as they are in England; the United States for instance. He (Mr S.) did not see what the house had to do with the matter at present; but the petition alluded to was signed by the first people in the province, and he thought it would be pretty generally signed by Churchmen.

Mr. CUNARD said he had not signed the petition, nor should he, but he would remark one thing. He knew no way in which the house had any right to interfere. The right to petition was the right of every inhabitant of the province. If the members of the established Church were willing to have a bishop over them, the house could not interfere to prevent there applying for the appointment. It would be improperly occupying the time of the house. Why the house should anticipate evil from the measure; or why it should interfere at all; he (Mr C.) could not think. He thought the petition was entirely got up by private parties, and very properly got up. It was stated at a time when the house and the Supreme Court were sitting, and introduced thus publicly that all the country might have a chance of becoming acquainted with it. This was taking the sense of the country very properly. He did not know how a petition could be got up more properly or opportunely, with respect to time, place or publicity.

Mr. ALLEN thought it doubtful how the house could then interfere. There was no petition before the house; but if any such petition were going about at that time, and the House felt satisfied in their own minds, that it would be a measure contrary to the interests of the province, it would be very proper for hon. members to express their sentiments in the name of their constituents. A majority of the inhabitants of the Province could not expect to derive benefit from the appointment of a bishop, because the greater part of the whole were Dissenters. It would certainly cause a great expense, and appeared to be premature. He was not then prepared to go with any resolution on the subject, but he thought there would be propriety in hon. members expressing their opinions. It was probable, that if Lord Grey's great reform measures should be carried in England, there would be a great surplus of bishops in that country, and then this province might get one of them.

Mr WELDON thought the House had no right to interfere in the matter. Hon. members might act with their own discretion out of doors, as to the course they would pursue. He thought Mr Simonds had introduced the matter for the purpose of occupying a little time in conversation.

Mr SIMONDS rose to explain. He had brought the question forward very seriously, because members of that house had been asked to sign the petition, when it was to pray his Majesty to do a thing which perhaps a majority of the house would think improper, and a very heavy tax on the province? This was a kind of doctrine he was not able to comprehend. He would say nothing as to the propriety of the petition. The people had a right to petition. But the house had a