

acquainted with the subject, and therefore said not so much about them, but left it to the evidence taken before the Committee of Grievances, which far more amply and clearly explained the subject than they could do. There was one expression in this document which required explanation. A great deal had of late been said and printed, in the most unfair and unjust manner about the conduct of the Deputation, and especially with regard to himself, (Mr S.) on whom a charge of selfishness had been sedulously endeavoured to be fixed. He alluded to the expression, with reference to grants of Water Lots, "as in the case of that to Messrs. Hazen, Simonds, and White," from which expression it had been eagerly inferred and diligently asserted, that he attended to his own business, in his late mission, in preference to the business of the public. But the fact was, that he had never, on any occasion, mentioned any such grant, nor was there any such grant in existence. No such grant had ever passed the great seal of Nova Scotia or New-Brunswick, with those three names in it. But he happened to be acquainted with the manner in which Mr Stanley had been made acquainted with those three names. It was from a certain pamphlet lately put forth by the Commissioner of Crown Lands, as a defence to the charges of evidence taken before the Committee of Grievances, and from this pamphlet Mr Stanley had been induced to introduce those three names in this manner in his dispatch, supposing that this grant was one to which complaint was applicable. But no such allusion was ever made by the Deputation; their representations were entirely confined to water lots in the Counties of Northumberland, Charlotte, and Gloucester, and the public landing in St. Stephen. So much for the slanderous assertions on that head. He (Mr S.) had cared nothing about those calumnies, because he knew a time would arrive, when he could easily and publicly refute them; and he was so great a friend to the liberty of the press, that he would willingly suffer a little while, rather than in any way abridge that great privilege of the people. With respect to the duty on British Manufactures, it was now fully conceded by his Majesty's Government, that although the Royal Instructions, literally construed, certainly prohibit all such impositions by the Colonies, yet those instructions had so long been disregarded in that respect, that they were not without authority, and therefore the local Legislatures would be permitted to lay duties on British Manufactures, for the purpose of raising a local revenue only, and having no object or intention to favor rival manufactures, either foreign or domestic.—With respect to the *College*, Mr Stanley had stated, that he had no objections to render it less exclusive, and to open it to all denominations.—With regard to the Casual Revenues and Civil List, a very important point was gained by the Deputation, which, if nothing else had been obtained, was worth all the trouble and expense Lord Goderich's dispatch stated, that he saw no reason to apprehend a falling off of the territorial revenues, and that it was his opinion that the salaries of public officers would be better paid by his Majesty's Government, and therefore positively negated any proposal relative to the civil list; but Mr Stanley had now entirely conceded the principle, and stated his readiness to enter into the negotiation, without insisting on the continuance of the present high salary of the Commissioner of Crown Lands. In making all the preceding statements, he (Mr S.) was well aware that he was in a great measure, only repeating what had already appeared in the public papers; for by some means or other, the Government dispatches on the subject had of late been very freely inspected, and had even appeared in the public papers, before they had been communicated to that House. He would now merely observe, that the Deputation was received by the Colonial Ministers with the utmost degree of courtesy, and every possible attention was paid to them; he believed indeed, that they had been more promptly attended to than the Delegates from any other Colony; for, at the same time, a Deputy from Upper Canada was in vain attempting to obtain an interview with the principal Secretary. And why were they so received? It must have been only from a conviction on the minds of Ministers, that the grievances complained of really existed; and because Ministers saw the necessity of applying a remedy; and it appeared to him, (Mr S.) that there was a real anxiety on the part of his Majesty's Government at home to do justice to the Province. It now only remained for the House to do their duty; and by persevering in the steps they had already taken, he had no doubt that all their difficulties would soon be put to rights. He was satisfied they could not do all they wished in this session, and it might be necessary again to send home statements respecting the matters in question, and also some confidential person to present them; because he much doubted whether the dispatches sent from this Province are now received as they would be, if they were accompanied by some such person to explain them. It was for want of knowing the truth at home, that things had gone on as they have done for some years past, and it was now therefore necessary for the House to make a stand. There was no necessity for adopting any intemperate step; the business required nothing but a calm, quiet perseverance in the course, as commenced last session; and in a few years, all their complaints would be fully redressed. He would now hand in the papers he had read, for the perusal of the House; and if he had forgotten any thing, his hon. associate (Mr Chandler) would fully supply the omission. He (Mr S.) had spoken greatly from memory, and might have forgotten some things, but in all he had said, he had stated nothing but the truth.

Mr CHANDLER observed, that his hon. associate, (as he might yet call him,) had stated the proceedings of the Mission at such length and with such correctness, as to leave but little for him to say. He entirely agreed with the statement of his hon. friend, that the Deputation had been most handsomely and respectfully received by his Majesty's Ministers; in a manner indeed which could not but be highly gratifying to themselves

as individuals, and to the House, whose representatives they were. With respect to the nature of the operations of the Mission, it seemed that there had been a very general impression in the country, that the Deputation had been sent home to manage an accusation against Mr. Baillie. This impression was wholly incorrect. They were sent home as bearers of certain representations from the House of Assembly to his Majesty, respecting the management and general system of the Crown Land Office, and not as managers of any accusation against the Commissioner personally; and it was therefore very wrong and premature to say, that because Mr. Baillie was not dismissed, the Deputation had not succeeded in their mission. That was not the object of their operations; and the real fact was, that in almost every point on which they were sent to treat, they had been totally successful. The only specific grounds of complaint which they preferred against Mr. Baillie were, the sale of public lands, the granting of reserves, and the sale of water lots; and all these specific matters of complaint were completely redressed. But even in preferring these complaints, the Deputation had not urged that the Commissioner was fully capable, or that he had acted solely on his own authority, but they stated their belief that he had in some degree acted on instructions from the crown. He (Mr C.) therefore, hoped, that this statement would remove the erroneous impression, that the Deputation had gone home to urge complaints particularly against Mr. Baillie. The Deputation and the Colonial Ministers had gone at length into all the matters mentioned by his hon. associate; and he (Mr C.) felt well assured, that the Government at home were well disposed to give every consideration and attention to all the representations forwarded by the House. There was only one thing which his hon. colleague had omitted, which was in reference to the detailed accounts of the Casual Revenue; and in justice, therefore, to the Lieut. Governor, he (Mr C.) would mention, that in conversation on this subject, Mr. Stanley said, that he thought his Excellency had exercised a sound discretion in his conduct on that point; because it would have been unfair in him to lay before the House detailed accounts of the expenditure before his own assumption of the Government, when his predecessors were not in the way to explain and defend them.—There were many points on which it was now needless for him (Mr C.) to touch; but there was one very important subject which he could not pass by. This was, the expected surrender of the Casual Revenues; and he thought, that when the attention of the House should be called to the communication on that subject mentioned in his Excellency's Speech, they would find him to be quite justified in saying, that all that was in the power of the Delegates and of the House to do, had been completely accomplished. The principle was now conceded. The House had made the proposition on the principle that they should pay the civil list; and the impression of the Delegates was, that the House were disposed to make provision for the present civil list, with a few exceptions as to amount, &c. particularly with regard to the salary of the Commissioner of Crown Lands. This proposition they urged on Mr. Stanley, who replied, that it would be extremely difficult, when persons had made arrangements and gone out to a Colony to do duties, upon the faith of a provision promised to them by the government, to make any alteration in such provision. The Deputation urged all the arguments with which they were furnished, to convince the Right Hon. Secretary of the propriety of their views, and in conclusion, his hon. associate did particularly ask Mr Stanley, whether his Majesty's Government would make the continuance of Mr. Baillie's present salary a *"sine qua non"* in the agreement? Mr. Stanley particularly observed the force of the question, and after some consideration, certainly replied, that "he would not say so by any means."—He (Mr C.) therefore felt satisfied, that if the House continued to represent these things to his Majesty's Government in a proper spirit, every thing they could desire would be satisfactorily arranged, at no great distance of time. There was only one thing in the whole course of their negotiations, in which his hon. associate and himself did not perfectly coincide; this was the Militia System; and he (Mr C.) therefore left him to talk over that matter with Mr. Hay. The Under Secretary himself had formerly been a Colonel of Militia, and as soon as he discovered his hon. colleague's military title, he invariably addressed him as "Colonel"; and thus the two Colonels canvassed the whole subject together, agreeing in some points and differing in others. The result had already been detailed, but he would observe that his hon. associate and himself both agreed that it was not necessary to represent the Militia system as a grievance.—There was only one other matter necessary to mention; viz. the *Marriage Law*. There had been some misunderstanding with respect to this matter. Many persons appeared to think that the Delegates had it in charge with the other affairs entrusted to them; but they certainly never had it in charge in writing, and therefore they were very unjustly accused of neglecting it, because it had never been committed to their consideration. But, in fact, it had not been lost sight of, even by the Delegates. They could not make it a matter of communication to his Majesty's Government, because Mr Stanley very strictly confined them to the objects comprised in their written instructions; and it was on that principle that the Deputy from Canada could obtain no interview at all, because he brought with him no written authority. But the Deputation sent a written communication to Mr. Babbridge, the Provincial agent, respecting the Marriage Law; upon which, that gentleman visited the Colonial Office, and found that the bill, with several other Marriage Bills from neighbouring Colonies, had been for some time lying in the office, without having been ever laid before the Privy Council, in consequence of the change of Ministers at home. There had been no intention whatever to stop the passing of the Act, nor had any representations been sent home against it; but, on the contrary,

there was every reason to believe, that the Act would shortly be passed and sent out. With respect to the duty on British Goods; that was another very important point gained. The sole difficulty respecting it was now removed, and the revenue might be improved by that resource. It only now remained for the House to act with calmness, moderation, and firmness, combined with respect to his Excellency the Lieut. Governor, and to all the local and home authorities; and then every attention would readily be paid by his Majesty's Government to all their representations. A great impression had been made upon his Majesty's Government by the conduct of a neighboring colony, which, after much violent proceeding and party spirit, had nevertheless broken its faith with respect to its negotiations concluded with the Government. But the representations of this Province were unanimous, and well supported by the people at large; the Delegates themselves had acted with unanimity in their proceedings; whatever might be their opinions on various subjects here, while on the other side the Atlantic, they had felt one common feeling, and pursued one common object; and from these causes, he (Mr C.) thought the Mission had met with much more attention and success than they otherwise would have experienced; and if the House now proceeded in the same way, they would make this one of the most important and beneficial sessions ever known in the Province. He could not help observing, that whatever might be said of the unpopularity of his Majesty's representative in this Province, it should be remembered that any such unpopularity arose merely from his Excellency having been compelled to carry into effect unpopular measures. The collection of the Quit Rent, the maintenance of the Crown Land System, and other grievances, had not originated with his Excellency, although he had been obliged to enforce their observance; and his Excellency, therefore, personally, was wholly undeserving of reproach in that respect. The hon. member concluded by shewing that he considered the Deputation had been considered as successful, as perhaps, the most sanguine had anticipated; and by enumerating the chief grievances which had been redressed, and points gained, in consequence of the representations of the House. The other matters alluded to were mere suggestions for the consideration of his Majesty's Government; and on the whole, he hoped, that from the tenor of the speech with which the present session had been opened, the House might congratulate themselves on the dawning of a new and most satisfactory era in the history of the country. His Excellency had observed, that they could all have but one object in view, "the Public Good." He (Mr C.) gladly recognised that happy feeling, and felt convinced that, if met by the house with propriety and in the spirit in which it was uttered, the present session would be a most important and beneficial one. He would now add his accordance with the Report detailed by his hon. associate, and join in submitting the various documents to the house. They had done the best they could in their Mission; others might have done better; but he really believed, that most persons in the country were satisfied that the money expended on the objects of the Deputation was not thrown away.

Messrs. S. Humbert, Kinnear, and End spoko; [but the Report of their Speeches has not as yet come to land;] after which Mr Kinnear moved the following Resolution, which was seconded by Mr Partelow, and adopted without a dissentient voice:

Resolved unanimously, That Messrs. SIMONDS and CHANDLER, two of the Members of this House, deputed at its last Session to present a Petition of the House to His most gracious Majesty, for the redress of certain grievances therein stated, receive the thanks of this House, for the ability, zeal, and industry manifested by them throughout the whole of their conduct in the management of the Deputation.

February 8.

ELECTION LAW.

Mr S. Humbert drew the attention of the House to the fact, of the Committee, appointed by the House in a former session to bring in a Bill to amend the Election Law, having omitted to do so, and the Session having terminated without any steps having been taken in the business; and observed, that he should be sorry to see another election, and especially another general election, take place, under the present law. He considered that law to be a very imperfect one, and one which gave rise to a great deal of riot, confusion, and drunkenness, as well as inconvenience to the candidates; and he therefore wished to ascertain the sense of the House, as to whether it would be advisable to bring in a Bill for its amendment.

Mr Simonds would be very glad to see some amendments made in the Election Law. It was very defective, and much time was always wasted in elections, under its enactments. He would like to see a bill brought in, to make such amendments. He thought fifteen days quite unnecessary for the time of polling; the mode of taking the poll should be simplified; and he thought that by some provisions as those contained in the English Reform Bill, elections in this country might be better regulated. The poll might very well be held at several places in the same county at the same time, as is now the case in England, which would prevent the concourse of such large bodies of people in one place, and therefore do away with a great deal of that party spirit and angry feeling now so often evinced, and that the whole election might be got over in two or three days instead of fifteen. That was a serious evil, and required amendment.