

# The Examiner.

"THIS IS TRUE LIBERTY WHEN FREE-BORN MEN—HAVING TO ADVISE THE PUBLIC—MAY SPEAK FREE."—MILTON'S EURIPIDES.

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## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

THURSDAY, 27th March.  
AFTERNOON SITTING.

HOUSE IN COMMITTEE ON ADDRESS IN  
ANSWER TO HIS EXCELLENCY'S  
SPEECH.

Dr. JARDINE in the Chair.

(Mr. Pope's Speech Concluded.)

It was true, continued the hon. member, that he had been assailed in all quarters by the obstructive faction and their agents; and by none with more virulence than a certain discarded representative—a rejected candidate—a convicted seditious libeller; a man who recognized no moral principles of action—one who, soon after taking up his residence in this Colony, had found it necessary to take measures to refute the charge of having been concerned in the rebellious movements in Canada—one who, in fine, had proved himself in every way qualified to acquit himself to the utmost, of all the obligations of a hired slanderer, and was therefore, indirectly paid by certain officials to label the majority of the House. He would not have condescended to allude either to the slanderous imputations cast upon him by that individual, or to his infamous labours in support of a corrupt government and an unscrupulous faction, he had attended some of the public meetings, (which had been called by certain members of the majority,) to misrepresent, as well as obstruct to the utmost of his power, their legitimate proceedings; and that it was on the authority of his misrepresentations, that the Hon. Sol. General had vilified the characters of the respectable and independent men who had mainly constituted those meetings, and most falsely accused them of being actuated by the most degrading motives and lowest appetites. He had never, without much reluctance—even in cases in which circumstances occurred to afford him a full justification of his doing so—impugned the conduct of individuals on the floor of the House, when such individuals were not there present, and at liberty to defend themselves. But, on the present occasion, all that he should say, in reply to the Hon. Sol. General, touching the character of the late public meetings—so far as it might be personal—would be a mere repetition of what he had spoken in the presence of those whom his observations might implicate. The conduct of those members of the majority who had called those meetings, was highly commendable, and such as greatly to redound to their credit. The hiring editor of the hired press of the government and official faction, had long been proclaiming a reaction on the part of the people, adverse to the responsible cause. He had broadly stated and reiterated again and again, that the people had lost all confidence in the majority, and would be found ready, on the first opportunity, to tell them so; and dared that majority to attempt a refutation of such assertions by calling public meetings to test the feelings of the people touching their proceedings in the last two sessions of the Legislature. The majority were indeed nothing loth to be called to the field, but were found quite ready—the course being fully in accordance with their own previous intention—to meet the people, and in the presence of their opponents and accusers, to render to their constituents an account of their stewardship. They openly took the field—they scorned to hold any thing like hole-and-corner meetings—they gave specific public notice of their intentions—and they invited their opponents to meet them, gain say them, and prove them

guilty if they could. But how was their invitation met? Did their opponents in the Legislature dare to accept it? They did not; for so he had it himself declared—the discarded representative to whom he had alluded, to undertake a service from which they themselves shrunk, as if fully conscious of the judgment which would be pronounced by the people between them and the majority, whose motives and actions they so anxiously sought to have condemned. It was true, that an adherent of the faction accompanied their hired slanderer; and the worthy associates sustained each other in their attempts to stigmatize the majority as office-hunters. Now, when it was remembered what had been the conduct of those two individuals with respect to office-hunting. What was attempted by one of those individuals, very soon after his arrival in this Colony, at a time when he was scarcely known in the Island? Why he basely endeavoured to displace the Surveyor General, than whom a more meritorious or respectable officer is not to be found in the Colony, by petitioning the Queen for the appointment, representing himself as the only person in the Colony properly qualified to discharge the duties of the office, and directly disparaging, not only the Surveyor General, but every other Surveyor, in the Island. Yet this was the man, this was the fellow who could unflinchingly come forward and prefer a charge of office-hunting against individuals who, if they sought office at all, sought it only through the favour, and with the entire concurrence and approbation of the people; and who, when charged with this mean act, unblushingly replied that it was only a "lark." Well he (Mr. Pope) could only say, that a lark with Her Majesty by such a fellow, with a view of depriving of his bread a public officer, against whom there was not a shadow of complaint, was a species of amusement that would go a long way to illustrate the character of the man. The individual by whom this paid slanderer was accompanied, and sustained in his assaults upon the majority of the Assembly—and especially upon certain individuals, amongst whom he (Mr. Pope) had the honour of very particular notice—raved furiously against him as an office-hunter; but by way of a rejoinder, he had taken leave to remind him of the surreptitious and indirect methods by which some covertly sought promotion and office, to which, conscious of their demerits they did not dare openly to aspire. He had reminded him that a certain individual, ambitious of being invested with magisterial authority, had personally solicited the late Sir Donald Campbell to appoint him a Justice of the Peace, urging upon the reluctant Governor the great services which he might render in that capacity, in the suppression of frays and brawls, in his frequent journeys into the country.

And yet this is the man who dares to impeach the motives of every member of this House who presume to advocate a public measure which he himself has frequently pledged himself to support.

Now, was it to be supposed that the people of this Colony were so dull, that they could not justly discriminate between the men who openly, honestly, and honourably sought office or promotion, through the favour of the people—the genuine, the original source of public honor and power—and them who had recourse to surreptitious aids, and pursued secret, indirect and winding paths for the attainment of the same end? He (Mr. P.) had attended those meetings for the express, the avowed purpose of obtaining a full,

an unequivocal expression of opinion from the people concerning the course pursued and measures adopted by the majority of the Assembly for the attainment of Responsible Government. The people had responded to their appeal, and had stamped with their approval the proceedings of their representatives in a way that could not fail to be highly satisfactory to the majority of the House. Statements more audaciously false, or standers more gross and infamous, had never been made and circulated than those which had originated with the hired advocate of the obstructive party, and to which he had given currency through the columns of the Journal which he edits. With respect to the public meeting held at Lot 19—he had not scrupled falsely to state, that the number of persons assembled on that occasion did not exceed seven or eight dozen, and had attempted to prove that the house would not contain 50 persons; but he (Mr. Pope) would pledge his word, that the number did not amount to less than from two to three hundred. In addition to that, he had falsely asserted of him (Mr. Pope), that he had assailed the character of the Colonial Secretary by casting upon it the most unwarrantable imputations; that he had called the Executive Council a set of Rascals, and characterized their general proceedings as rascally and disgraceful. What he (Mr. Pope) had said in reference to the Government on that head, was that they had proceeded to make an immediate and thorough investigation of the Treasury, at the time when they had first good reason to suspect that a serious defalcation existed in that Department, the actual deficit would have been found to amount to no less than between £2000 and £3000; and that such was the case could, he believed, be substantiated to-morrow. On that score the Government were guilty of a neglect, amounting to little short of the most culpable connivance. But, with reference to the proposed re-investigation of the affairs of that Department, after it had been reported by a Committee of investigation, that the amount of public moneys found by them in the Chest was quite correct, he had said, and would still say, that a renewal of the inquiry would have been nothing less than actual persecution. His charge against the Government was not, however, founded on the private defalcations of any officer; for that was a circumstance which might happen under the very best and most vigilant government that could exist. No: he had not accused them because every subordinate officer of the government had not been found worthy of the trust reposed in him; but he accused them because, instead of manifesting a desire that all government offices should be filled by honest and honourable men, they had been guilty of the most flagrant corruption in keeping open the Treasury office, for the re-acceptance of the late incumbent—of whose previous defalcations they had sufficient knowledge—at a time when it had been vacated by his own act, by his having greatly exceeded his leave of absence, and when his sureties had refused any longer to guarantee his integrity. Such conduct on the part of a government could not be defended; for it afforded the strongest evidence of positive corruption, it being publicly known, that the Treasurer had obtained large sums of money from individuals under false pretences. Again how had they acted with reference to the Post Office? To gratify private resentment against the representatives of the people, to bring about, if possible, a serious misunderstanding between them and their constituents, the Government, notwithstanding the well-known fact, that the Post Office

was a self paying service, had determined to stop the transmission or conveyance of all Mails, both foreign and domestic; but finding that they themselves could not conveniently dispense with the reception and transmission of the former, they had been obliged to confine the exercise of their malice to the stoppage of the Inland Mails. How pitiful, how contemptible, how disgraceful was such conduct! Why, the absolute and semi-barbarous Turk, the Pacha of Egypt, had shown himself more enlightened; and, in a spirit more in harmony with the wise liberality of the age had freely permitted the transmission of his enemies' mails through his dominions, even at a time when they were actually waging war against him. It might, perhaps, be said that the arbitrary interdiction touching the Post Office had proceeded directly from the late Governor himself; but, even although it could be granted, that that was literally the case, the admission could by no means exonerate the Government from the blame and odium which attached to them in consequence of it. Honest and independent men would not have suffered themselves to be implicated in any act, so tyrannically and unnecessarily abrogating one of the most important of all public privileges and conveniences; but would at once have resigned their seats at the Council Board, as the only positive or sufficient evidence they could afford, under such circumstances, that they did not entertain a greater regard for their own private interests than the acknowledged rights of the people. It might be alleged by some, that in thus severely censuring the conduct of the late Governor, he was not exercising that forbearance which was done to the dead. To such an allegation he would reply, that if the Governor was dead, his bad acts were not: they were still living: with them the people and their representatives had still to contend; and it was owing to them, that the people had still to struggle to free themselves from the incumbency of a bad government, whose leading object, for the last twenty or thirty years, had been the promotion of one family interest, unduly represented in it—a government the construction of which, being altogether independent of the voice and sanction of the people, made it almost morally impossible that it should be otherwise than corrupt. The men of this Colony had, however, not lived for nothing in these times of moral progression: their eyes were opened: they clearly saw the real existing state of public affairs; they fully understood what was requisite and necessary to secure good government, and the future prosperity and well-being of the Colony; they duly appreciated the labours of those who were actually engaged in the struggle for the establishment of their just rights; they now fearlessly expressed sentiments, the avowal of which, a few years ago, would have been accounted seditious; and their hopes were steadily set upon the attainment of those ameliorations and reforms, which their representatives—the majority of the Assembly—were determined to pursue, and, if possible, to work out for them at all risks. With respect to the principle generally received and acted upon by Legislatures and Governments, that public servants, on retirement or removal from office, were generally, unless displaced for malversation, entitled to some compensation for loss of office, he certainly did not mean to deny the justness of its general recognition; and there was not a member of the House who would more readily acknowledge the claims of a meritorious retiring officer than himself; but the circumstances and resources of this Colony were evidently such, as to make