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"This is true Liberty, when Freeborn Men, having to advise the Public, may speak free."---Euripides.

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Provincial Parliament.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

FRIDAY, March 30, 1860.

Hon. Col. SWABEY, in reply, again read the Message concerning the Despatch received by His Excellency in answer to the address to Her Majesty of the House of Assembly; and, proceeding to comment upon it anew, declared that no sophistry could make it appear for one moment that it did not contain a threat. The Government and the supporters of the Government might tell them to go on with the business of the country without troubling themselves about what the Despatch might contain. They were thus urged and encouraged to proceed in the discharge of their legislative duties; and thus they would be encouraged to proceed therein, so long as they should agree to everything sanctioned or proposed by the Government or the Government majority in the other House. But, should they venture, on whatever ground, or how conscientiously soever, to oppose any measure which had been so sanctioned or so proposed, what were they to expect? His Excellency had told them what, in his Message. If they did not work harmoniously with the other House,—in other words, if they did not bow their necks to the yoke of the Government, or of the Government majority in the House of Assembly—His Excellency would exercise the power which has been placed in his hands to make such an alteration in their construction as would insure their working harmoniously with the other House, that is, in other words, as would insure submission on the part of the Legislative Council to the control and direction of the Government majority in the other House. His Honor Mr. Palmer has endeavored to show that all that has been said to the disparagement of the Legislative Council, in the address of the House of Assembly to the Queen, and their therein praying for a reconstruction of the Legislative Council, has been provoked by the address of the Legislative Council, and that the Despatch in answer to the address of the House of Assembly, whatever it might contain, was directly traceable to the same provocation or cause; but he has failed to make out any real connexion between them. The Legislative Council, in their address, had certainly said a good deal about the House of Assembly; but they had not vilified or assailed their characters. [Hon. Mr. PALMER — They accused them of having violated the constitution.] They were not satisfied with the mode in which the Government was formed, and they gave reasons for their dissatisfaction. That was a public question; and therefore one in which they were entitled to their own opinion, and one concerning which they had a perfect right to set forth their opinions, as they did, but those opinions had nothing to do with the character of the House of Assembly, or with the future views or action of the Legislative Council. His Honor Mr. Palmer had said the address of the House of Assembly was sent Home in their own defence. That could not have been the case, for they had not been attacked. As to Despatches, they knew that His Excellency could withhold them when he thought it proper to do so. But, although he (Hon. Colonel Swabey) had, for several years, been a member of the Executive Council, never during the time that he had been so, except in one instance, had anything like the withholding of a Despatch occurred; and, in that instance, it was not a whole Despatch, but merely a part of one, which had private reference to the Lieutenant Governor, that was withheld. That correspondence between Governors of Provinces or Colonies should, at times, be strictly private and secret, no one who had anything like a just idea of the position of a Governor of a Colony, or the difficulties which would be found occasionally to lie in his way, would deny. Without such privilege his appointment would be almost useless. But, with respect to the Despatch in question, as had been very justly observed by his honorable friend Mr. Hutchinson, either the whole of it ought to have been published, or else no part of it should have been communicated to the public. The interpretation which had been made known—the only interpretation which they could put upon it—was degrading and humiliting in the extreme to the Legislative Council, and it undoubtedly gave them a right—a right which, if they possessed the spirit of men, they would exercise—to ask, he might say, demand, that the whole Despatch should be laid before them. It had been said that the Legislative Council had a constitutional right to ask for the answer to their own address, but that they have no right whatever to ask for the answer to the address of the House of Assembly. In ordinary cases that doctrine might be true enough; but it was certainly false in the present one. The Legislative Council knew that their vitality was affected by the answer to the address of the other House, and they had, therefore, a just right to ask to be made fully acquainted with it. There surely could be no intentiton, on the part of the Government, to reduce the independence of the Legislative Council. [His Honor the President: They can't do it! Yes, it could be done by the appointment of a number of new members, all of the dominant party, sufficient to swamp the independence of the existing majority (falsely called the obstructives) in the Legislative Council. After an explanation of the manner in which the opposition of the majority of the House of Lords to the passage of the Reform Bill, in 1832, was overcome,—not, he said, by the creation of a new batch of peers, but in consequence of the absenting of themselves from the House, at the critical season, (out of deference to the well known wishes of the King in favor of the Bill,) by the Duke of Wellington and other peers, holding the same political creed as his Grace. His Honor concludes by saying: We are told that, since the meeting of the Legislature on the 16th., all has gone on well and harmoniously between the two Houses, and that we have not had the shadow of reason for complaining, as we had abundant cause for doing, last session, of any want of respect or consideration manifested towards us, either by the Government or the Government majority in the House of Assembly. This is all very true: The storm of passion which agitated some of the hon. members of the other House last session is calmed down; but perhaps only as the paroxysms of delirium are restrained by the influence of opium, suddenly to be renewed. But, with respect to the prayer of this address, I hope, nay, I almost believe, that, if presented to His Excellency, he will comply with it, notwithstanding the strong assertions of his Honor (Mr. Palmer) to the contrary. In saying this, I mean nothing disrespectful to his Honor,—far from it; but I think it very probable that His Excellency, on seriously reconsidering the subject, may see reason to change his opinion with respect to it. This is certain—the House is placed in a very humiliating position; and they should take care not to continue in it.

Hon. Mr. PALMER then rose and moved in amendment to the motion of the Hon. Col. Swabey, to strike out all after the word "Resolved," and substitute the following:

"That it is indispensable for the interests and welfare of this Colony that harmony should at all times exist between the House of Assembly and the Legislative Council, and that this Branch of the Legislature entertains no apprehension that, in pursuing such measures as will be most likely to insure that harmony, it will ever have reason to compromise the dignity of their situation, or that respect and independence which appertain to this Council."

Hon. Mr. FORGAN seconded the motion of amendment.

Hon. Mr. BAGNALL—By the prayer of the proposed address we ask for nothing but what we are fairly and justly entitled to. By the Message, which has been accidentally delivered to us, we are plainly enough given to understand that unless we freely harmonize with the Government majority in the House of Assembly, His Excellency will, as empowered, have recourse to the exercise of some extraordinary means to compel us to do so. His Message is not addressed to us,—neither does it appear that it was intended that any such message should be sent to us; for his Honor the Leader of the Government (Mr. Palmer) has informed us that it was through mistake on his part that he delivered it. His Honor has, besides, informed us that the House of Assembly, to whom it is addressed, and to whom it has been delivered as an answer to their address, of last Session, to the Queen, are quite satisfied with it; and he is surprised that it is not satisfactory to us also, especially since we have received a direct answer to our own address to Her Majesty, which, in his opinion, was all we had a right to expect. Had the address of the House of Assembly concerned themselves only—their own separate constitution and distinct privileges—we could, it is most likely, have properly had little or nothing to do either with it or the answer to it. But when the body of their address contained nothing but allegations and insinuations—prospective insinuations—against this Council, and the prayer of it asked for nothing less than a reconstruction of our body, we certainly have quite as much right as the House of Assembly,—nay, as matters now stand with respect to it, we have positively a better right than they have to ask to be made fully acquainted with the Despatch in answer to it. What has already gone forth to the public respecting its nature, has placed us in a very humiliating position before them; and we have a positive right to ask that, by having the Despatch fully communicated to us, we may be afforded the means and allowed an opportunity to free ourselves from it. The impression made upon the minds of the people at large by what has been made known concerning the substance and nature of the Despatch, is that, if we originate and agree to any thing which may be adverse to the view or particular policy of the Government, we shall be sent about our business, as unworthy of the honor of sitting at this Council Board; and that we can retain our seats here by no other means than implicit compliance, on all public questions, with the will and views of the Government. Were we, factiously and upon unjustifiable and untenable grounds, to oppose the Government and obstruct their measures, we should indeed be most unworthy, of the honor conferred upon us by the Royal Commissions which have constituted us independent members of the Legislature. But we have never disgraced ourselves by conduct so unworthy and nothing that we have done or said can be alleged as a justification of the presumption evidently entertained that we may do so. On the contrary, if fairly judged, with respect to the past, it will be found that, in all deliberations and resolves, we have acted with a single eye to the public good; and I trust that, so long as we shall continue to act in our present legislative capacity, scorning every other aim, we shall, as heretofore, make the preservation of the rights and privileges of the people and the advancement of their social interests and general welfare, the sole objects of our legislative labors. Thus conscious of the rectitude and purity of our legislative principles and actions, it is most natural that we should seek to justify ourselves, before the public, by a manifestation of that spirit of independence which is ever the ruling principle in the breasts of honest and honorable men; and as we are now circumstanced, the adoption of the address submitted by his Honor Colonel Swabey seems to me to be the only proper mode of procedure which is open to us for the obtaining of the means by which to prove to the people that we are not that spiritless, humiliated, and degraded body of men, which much pains have most unworthily been taken to prove we are, and which gross misrepresentation of our character has, I am very sorry to say, found acceptance with a very large portion, if not the majority, of the community, as if it were an established fact, and with which some of us have actually been individually taunted in public. Before the opening of the present session, I was myself frequently taunted, and, I must confess, seemingly on good grounds, with the power which has been bestowed upon His Excellency to dismiss from this Council all who should be obnoxious to his constitutional advisers, the Executive Council; and I really did not know, until the opening of the session, whether I should, or should not, have it officially communicated to me that my services would not again be required at the Legislative Council board. I am here again, however, and unchanged in political principles; but how long I shall be allowed to remain here I know not. The first reason assigned by his Honor the Leader of the Government, Mr. Palmer, for the withholding of the Despatch in question, is that it would be impolitic, inexpedient, to communicate it to us at present; and the next, the only one besides, but that on which he seems chiefly to rest his justification of secrecy, on the part of the Government, with respect to it, is that it is a secret and confidential Despatch to His Excellency. This is a position which it is impossible to sustain. If the Despatch is and has been regarded by the Government as secret and confidential, how can they justify their having allowed so much concerning its substance and nature publicly to transpire? But that it ought to be regarded as secret and confidential, I positively deny, and can, I think, very easily prove. The Despatch is an answer to an address to Her Majesty the Queen of the House of Assembly, the chosen representatives of the people, openly agreed to, and published to all the world; and the answer to such an address—an address of the people to the Crown, for so it must constitutionally be held to be—ought not to be, and, in fact, cannot with any show of right reason, be accounted, private and confidential. The publication of such a Despatch is justly due to the people at large; but, for reasons of the most cogent nature, which, for the present, have, however, been sufficiently enforced, it is especially due to this Council. His Honor, after having briefly adverted to the rejection of the pre-payment of the postage Bill of last session, and having shewn that their reasons for doing so had been acquiesced in by the Home Government, concluded by saying that the address proposed by his Honor Col. Swabey, and the prayer of it, were, he believed, in accordance with the sentiments and wishes of the majority of the Board; and that he did not think that, even should it be met by nothing but a direct refusal, on the part of His Excellency, the Board would, thereby, be placed in a worse position than they then occupied.

Hon. Mr. MCINTYRE—In consequence of what has gone abroad throughout the whole of the Island, concerning the Despatch which has been received in answer to the address of the House of Assembly, to the Queen, last Session, we have, in the estimation of the people at large, lost our character for independence. The people really believe that, by that Despatch, we have been deprived of it; and that so contemned, despised, and degraded, we are satisfied to sit here at the mercy of the Government. That this is not the case, I am proud to find there is spirit and resolution enough amongst us to prove. If we adopt the proposed address to His Excellency, as I trust we shall, we shall, by such action, shew that, conscious of the rectitude of our conduct in our legislative capacity, we are prepared to defend it, and practically sustain our legislative independence, whatever may be kept secretly in reserve to be inflicted upon us, as a punishment for our presuming, as legislators, to judge of public affairs and public measures for ourselves, and to act upon our own judgment, independently of the views and wishes of the Government.

Hon. Mr. WALKER—I should like the amendment proposed by his Honor Mr. Palmer very well, if it had not gone forth, throughout the length and breadth of the Island, east and west, north and south, that in consequence of the power which has been conferred upon His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, to remodel this Council, in case we oppose any Government measure, or dissent from the views of the Government majority in the House of Assembly, we are completely deprived of an independent voice in the Legislature; and must, if we would retain our seats at this Board, submit to be, as it were, driven and ridden under the influence of whip and spur, at the will of the Government, and of their majority in the other House. The inference, that such is the degrading position in which we are placed, has, we cannot deny, been fairly enough drawn from what has been communicated, respecting the Despatch in question, to the public through the columns of the *Islander*, the organ of the Government, and what has been stated concerning it by his Honor, the Leader of the Government, Mr. Palmer, to his late constituents. And should we, knowing it, quietly and tamely allow ourselves to lie under the imputed degradation, our doing so would amount to nothing short of acquiescence, on our part, in the justice of the charges which, by the House of Assembly, have been preferred against us; and in the correctness of the conclusion, arrived at by the public generally, that we are reduced to a state of bondage, or of vassal dependence upon the Government and the Government majority in the House of Assembly. What was advanced by the House of Assembly, last session, derogatory to the character of this Council, was wholly without foundation; but how far it may have found credence with the Home Government, we have, as yet, had no means of positively ascertaining; and, therefore, as we respect and desire to have in our hands means whereby to justify ourselves, it is our duty to support the address which has been submitted by his Honor Col. Swabey; and, keenly and indignantly sensible as I am of the attempt which has been made to fix a lasting stigma upon this Council, as at present constituted, I heartily approve of the proposed address to His Excellency, and fully concur in the opinion expressed by some of your Honors, that our duty to ourselves imperatively calls upon us to adopt the proposed course; for, if we do, whatever may be the result—whether the prayer of the address may be complied with by His Excellency, or whether he may refuse to comply with it—one thing desired by us we shall attain,—that is, the making it evident to the public that we are not the tame, subdued, and servile legislative body which, by many, we are supposed to have become, and which, we have but too much reason to believe, others most sincerely desire to make us.

Hon. Mr. PALMER—His Honor who has just sat down fancies that because, as he says, it has gone forth throughout the Island, east and west, north and south, that His Excellency is empowered to remodel this Council, should he find it necessary, for the purpose of producing harmony of action between it and the House of Assembly, we are degraded in the estimation of the public. How the knowledge possessed by the public that His Excellency is invested with such a power, should be so degrading to this House, as his Honor Mr. Walker has asserted it is, I cannot conceive; but this I know, that, if I thought this Council was, thereby, so humiliated and degraded as he professes to believe it is, I would be very sorry to continue a member of it. His Honor Mr. Walker has told us that the Address of the House of Assembly to Her Majesty, last Session, contains sundry complaints against the formation and strange inconsistency, he is not only brooking it by his support of the proposed Address, but subscribes to that declaration. Now, I will ask his Honor how, if this Address be presented to His Excellency, and His Excellency declines to comply with the prayer of it, as I may, I believe, safely assure him His Excellency will, how will he then, with any show of self-respect, be able to retain his seat at this Board? If he do, what will then be said to him? Why this: you have acknowledged the declaration of this House of Assembly against the formation and character of the Legislative Council, and you now quietly sit down under the imputation thereby cast upon it.

Hon. Col. SWABEY—Certainly representations militating against the construction of this Council, and particular allegations derogatory to its character, embodied and distinctly set forth in an Address of the House of Assembly, to Her Majesty the Queen, have been laid before Her Majesty; and an answer to the same has been duly received by His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor; of which answer, a part, containing a very significant intimation—in fact a threat—to the Legislative Council, has been made public; and, because an honourable member thereof, keenly and indignantly sensible of the most unjustifiable attempts which have been made to degrade the honorable Board of which he is a member, first in the estimation of Her Majesty, and then in that of the whole people of this Colony; and, deeming that in simple justice it is due to this Council, that the whole answer to that Address should be laid before them, has thought proper to express his indignation at the injustice thereby done to the Council, and to declare that the proceeding now proposed (an Address to His Excellency, praying that the whole of the Despatch in question may be laid before us) appears to him to be the only action to which the Council can, at present, have recourse, with any likelihood of obtaining what they desire—that is, the means and an opportunity to justify themselves from the disparagement and aspersions which have, most causelessly and unjustly, been cast upon them,—that hon. gentlemen has been told by his Honor, the Leader of the Government, Mr. Palmer, that, by supporting that Address, he, with strange inconsistency, willingly subscribes to the declaration by which he thinks himself degraded, whilst at the same time, exclaiming against the gross injustice done to himself and other members of this Honorable Council, by the statements contained in that declaration. Now this deduction or conclusion of his Honor the Leader of the Government is ceratinly one of the most unwarranted and illogical that I have ever heard made. A gentleman emphatically and distinctly denies certain allegations which have been made against his own character and the body generally of which he is a member, and desires such full information concerning the acceptance which these allegations may have received in a certain quarter of the highest authority, as may enable him and his colleagues to send forth a justification of themselves: and, for so doing, he is, oddly enough, charged with subscribing to his own degradation. In my opinion, his Honor Mr. Walker feels, and has spoken, as, in the circumstances in which he is placed, it would become any man of honor and spirit to feel and speak; and, instead of being degraded by his support of the Address under our consideration, he will thereby gain additional esteem and increased consideration in the minds of all right thinking and independent men. His having been contented to allow the whole matter to remain unnoticed, and made no ground of any defensive or exculpatory action by this Council, might, perhaps, with some show of justice, have been construed into acquiescence in the truth of the charges preferred against us; but, by his indignant denial of those charges, and his warm support of the proposed Address, he has evinced, instead of a spirit of slavish submission and degradation, the feelings of an honorable and independent man.

Hon. Mr. HUTCHINSON—It is impossible truly to advance anything degrading to the character of this House. And, in fact, what has been advanced by the House of Assembly, in their Address to the Queen, concerning the legislative proceedings of this Council, amounts, if rightly understood, to nothing more than this; that, because we rejected the pre-payment of Postage Bill, a measure approved of by the Government, it is to be inferred we may, out of a factious spirit, obstruct or reject other Government measures. Our reasons for refusing to pass the Post Office Bill of last Session, in the form in which it came before us, and according to the instructions received from Home concerning it, have been approved of by the Home Ministry; and, at this Session, modified to suit our views, it has been again submitted to our consideration; and we have passed it. I cannot see that, with respect to any measure, whether a Government measure or otherwise, we have ever decided amiss, or done wrong. Before any threat was held out against us, we acted independently; we have done so since; and, I trust, we will do so now. The Despatch which has been received in answer to the address of the House of Assembly, last Session, may contain the threat of a remodelling of this Council, as, indeed, we have been plainly informed it does; but I am inclined to think it contains something more of a different character; and perhaps our own address to Her Majesty may have had its effect in causing through that Despatch, such a check be given to the Government and their party in the other House as has induced them to abandon, with respect to us, that tone and bearing of arrogant assumption which so strongly characterized them last session; for now there is a marked change in the manner in which they speak of this Council, and conduct themselves towards us. But for the intemperance displayed by them last Session, perhaps some reason, besides their dissatisfaction with our independence, may be found. They were, then, just come from their triumph, flushed with victory, and intoxicated with success; and their extravagances and indiscretion were, whilst they were in a state of such high excitement, not to be so much wondered at, as if they had so demeaned themselves after having had time to sober down into propriety of speech and action. Except with respect to the pre-payment of Postage Bill, we have not, in any way opposed a Government measure; but have disposed of all public business which has come before us in an honest, impartial, and independent spirit. The two Houses are now in harmony, proceeding with the business of the Session; and I should be sorry to see any thing arise to drive us into opposition to the Government and their majority in the Assembly. Why, the prayer of the address to His Excellency now under our consideration should meet with a refusal, I cannot see. It is proposed to ask His Excellency, in the most courteous manner, by the address, to lay before us the Despatch containing the threats as to a reconstruction of our Body; in order that we may, thereby, learn how far, and on what grounds, we have been misrepresented to Her Majesty and the Home Government; and, being so informed, have it in our power to justify our actions, and free ourselves from disparagement; and I cannot allow myself to believe that, if the address be presented to His Excellency, he will persist in withholding the Despatch.

The question of concurrence having been put on his Honor Mr. Palmer's motion of amendment, as hereinbefore given, the House divided:

CONTENTS.—Hon. Mr. Palmer, His Honor the President, Hons. Mr. Forgan, Mr. Johnson, and Mr. Simpson,—5.

NON-CONTENTS.—Hons. Col. Swabey, Mr. Dingwell, Mr. Craswell, Mr. Walker, Mr. McIntyre, and Mr. Hutchinson,—6.

And it passed in the negative.

The question having been put on the original (Hon. Colonel Swabey's) motion, the House again divided,—

CONTENTS.—Hons. Col. Swabey, Mr. Dingwell, Mr. Craswell, Mr. Walker, Mr. McIntyre, and Mr. Hutchinson.—6.

NON-CONTENTS.—Hon. Mr. Palmer, His Honor the President, Hons. Mr. Forgan, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Simpson.—5.

And it was resolved in the affirmative.

R. B. IRVING, Reporter.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

ELECTION BILL.

House again in Committee on this Bill—Mr. J Yeo in the Chair. Discussion resumed on the resolution in reference to transferring the political privileges of a town from Princetown to Summerside and St. Eleanor's.

Hon. Mr. POPE—I presume there will be little opposition to the resolution before the Committee. It was, I may say, suggested by the hon. member for Princetown himself. It is absurd that a place which has only some 200 votes should have the power to return two members to this House. When this privilege was granted to Princetown, it was intended to be the capital of the county; but as St. Eleanor's and Summerside now virtually hold that position, the privilege should be transferred to them. But while I would deprive Princetown of representation as a town, I consider it nothing but right and reasonable that it should also be relieved from all extra taxes. The question will then be are the people of Summerside willing to take the taxes now borne by Princetown upon their shoulders? I maintain that they are already heavily taxed, many of them having to pay 15s. on their houses, consequently if the principle of taxation at Princetown were adopted there, it would be an advantage to Summerside. I believe that in a town and royalty there are about 4000 acres, so the whole of Lot 17 might very well be brought in with Summerside; but I would not give it the advantages which Lot 18 now has, that of possessing extra elective privileges without any additional taxation. The hon. leader of the Opposition stated that he would support the resolution if the preamble were amended or struck out. I am not particular about the preamble, my desire is to aid the hon. member Mr. Sinclair to disfranchise Princetown, as well as to do justice to the thriving village of Ssummerside. The people of Lot 17 knowing this resolution to be before the House, lately held a public meeting, and got up a petition in its favor, because one in opposition to it was being sent in from Princetown. I think every person ought to see that it is reasonable Summerside should be the county town.

Mr. SINCLAIR—The hon. member for Bedeque seems to think there will be no opposition to the resolution. It shall at least receive what I can give. He insinuates that I desire to disfranchise Princetown, though he very well knows that I never expressed anything of the kind. When hon. members come to consider this subject calmly, and aside from party feeling, they will, I think, see that it would be an act of injustice to deprive Princetown of its privileges. It is well known that it is a place which has been laid off for a town, and that the Government holds a considerable quantity of land there. True it has not progressed very rapidly, but other places are nearly in the same position. Georgetown has made very little improvement,—in fact Charlottetown is the only place which has arisen to any importance. But this is not to be wondered at, as the Island can not be expected to support many towns. I do not see that Summerside has become so great a town that it should claim the privilege of returning two members. The Government possesses no lands there, and though it has improved rapidly the last few years, no person can tell how long this improvement may continue. Before it can have a right to this privilege it should be in a greater state of progress—it should have a population sufficient to entitle it to become the county town. The hon. member has expressed his desire to include the whole of Lot 17 with Summerside, which goes to prove that he himself thinks it is not far enough advanced as a town to warrant the proposed change. The people of Princetown have for a number of years paid very high taxes, and several new roads have been laid off in the place, for which they have had to pay besides. Certainly then it is unjust to treat them as proposed by the hon. member for Bedeque. Princetown, I believe, will become a town at no distant day. Its situation is such that when the population of the Colony increases it will be built up. When our people turn their attention more to the fisheries it must rise, as its central position on the north side admirably adapts it for that trade. But while there is plenty of land to be obtained, we cannot expect this branch of industry to receive much attention, and probably some years may elapse before Princetown becomes a place of much importance; but that it will ultimately be built, few I think, will deny. I believe there is a petition before the House from St. Eleanor's and Summerside in favor of the resolution, which the hon. member says was got up because there would be one sent in from Princetown of a contrary nature. The people of Princetown never thought of the like until they heard what was doing at Summerside and St. Eleanor's; and though they immediately started a counter petition, the time was so short that fewer signatures were obtained than would otherwise have been. If it is considered that Princetown should be deprived of representation, I would like to hear upon what grounds Summerside has a better claim.

Hon. Mr. HAVILAND—When this matter was first brought before the House, it took me rather by surprise; but having since given it mature consideration, I have been led to the conclusion that the claim of Summerside and Lot 17 to representation is much greater than that of Princetown and Lot 18. The hon. member, Mr. Sinclair, appears to think that the franchise is a kind of property, and that to take it away would be like depriving persons of their houses or lands. The elective privilege should never be looked upon as property, but as a trust; and because it is such the Legislature has power to transfer it from one part of the country to another. The Legislature acted upon this principle in 1856 when it annexed Lot 18 to Princetown. The members for that place ought no longer to be called the members of Princetown, but of Princetown and Lot 18. If the people who hold town lots there have had to pay high taxes, they have possessed the peculiar privilege of voting. But if they are to be deprived of representation as a town, the taxes may be changed, and made the same as on Township lands. The hon. member for Princetown argues that Summerside is not far enough advanced to be made the county town, since it is proposed to take in with it the whole of Lot 17. But this Township may be said to contain two towns, Summerside and St. Eleanor's, which circumstance gives it a much superior claim to Princetown and Lot 18. St. Eleanor's has been the capital of Prince County for a number of years, and I believe if that county were canvassed to-morrow, a large majority of the people would be found to prefer it to Princetown. The principle on which the resolution is based is that the franchise should be taken from towns which do not increase, and given to those that do. I do not see what trade is ever to make Princetown a place of importance. Georgetown has slowly, no doubt, but gradually improved. The first time I was returned to represent it, I obtained only 67 votes, whereas at the last election, I received 140, more than double the number. It has now many respectable buildings and a considerable trade. But Princetown remains the same as when laid off by the Surveyor General, which shows that a grand mistake was made when that place was selected for a town. It is not in a central position. I would venture to say that hundreds in Prince County have never seen the site where the town was proposed to be built. Summerside is the best place that can be chosen for the county town, both on account of its position and extensive trade. When the railway in New Brunswick is completed, Summerside will no doubt rapidly increase; and I would not wonder, but I might live to see it the largest town in the Colony.

Hon. Mr. McAULAY—I generally agree with my hon. colleague, because he displays so much common sense; but we differ a little on this subject. I shall advert briefly to the history of towns. People are divided into two great classes, agriculturists and artisans. Artisans are led to collect into one place on account of the facilities which are thus afforded for carrying on their employment; so that in all new countries, and in those emerging from barbarism, towns gradually arise. Following out this principle, and to make provision for what might naturally be expected to occur in an increasing Colony, we find that in this Island a number of years ago, three places were laid off for towns. But the selection for Prince County did not prove a judicious one. The site chosen never became an emporium of trade. Another part of the county became the seat of commerce, and when we see that place, in spite of disadvantages, springing up into a town, we ought to foster it. But Summerside has, in some respects, been favored. It has been connected by steam communication with Shediac and Charlottetown. The hon. member, Mr Haviland, has prophesied that it will become the largest town in the Colony; and if we may judge of its future progress by that of the last few years, in all probability his prediction will come true. I think, however, the Committee should pause before they pass the resolution. We ought to be careful not to deprive any place of its privileges. But Princetown was deprived of its privileges long before the present resolution was thought of. It was deprived of its representation as a town when the late party in power swamped it by the annexation of Lot 18. I feel sorry that the proposal that Princetown shall cease to be a borough, should annoy a single individual; still I consider it my duty to support the resolution. But Princetown ought to be relieved from all extra taxation, and Summerside should be made to bear the burden.

Hon. Mr. COLES—I thought we were going to be favored with the history of towns from the creation, but it turned out a very meagre affair. The disfranchisement of Princetown, which was at first rather spoken of in jest, is now becoming a serious matter. I am of opinion, as I before remarked, that since Summerside has risen to be a town, it should have a distinct representation, because its interests are becoming different from those of country districts. But the question is should Princetown be wholly disfranchised? I see that by the new Reform Bill in Britain it is not proposed to deprive small old boroughs totally of their representation, but to allow them to return one member. Now we may adopt this principle with respect to Princetown, by leaving it one, and giving the other to Summerside. Princetown could not reasonably complain at such an arrangement; and as Summerside is only rising into a town, one member would be sufficient for it at present. When it becomes as large as Charlottetown it ought then to be allowed another. I think the House should make some regulation now respecting the building of Summerside; the streets should be made at right angles, and also of a certain width. The site is an excellent one, and if it be only properly laid off, it will make a very pretty town.

Hon. the SPEAKER—I would like to know from the hon. member who has just sat down whether he intends to include Lot 18 with Princetown in his proposal to give one member to each, for as long as that is the case Princetown may be said to have no representation. To give only one representative to Princetown, along with Lot 18, would disfranchise the town altogether. If it were placed in its former position by being separated from that Township, one member would not be so objectionable. But the suggestion of the hon. leader of the Opposition I can never agree with. If the present representation of Princetown is to be taken away it shall be without my concurrence. I cannot understand what the Government has to do with Summerside. There is no Government land in the place. If the representation be given to it, property there will rise; but it will fall in Princetown, and thus cause a loss to the Government which, I think, is one of the strongest arguments against the proposed change. Princetown has been rather unfortunate. Had the public buildings not been taken away, it would have made some progress. I know that persons there took out timber with the intention of building, but they proceeded no further when they learned that the public buildings were to be erected at another place. I am sorry that Princetown appears to be doomed. First it was deprived of the public buildings, then Lot 18 was joined to it, and now it is proposed to disfranchise it altogether. It is one of the oldest settlements in the Island, and though the people there have been paying heavy taxes, they have made very few claims upon the Government. I think it would be unjust for the Legislature to deprive Princetown of the last privilege it seems to possess. I never thought that the proposition of the hon. member for Bedeque was to be more than a joke. I regret that my colleague made any reference to the place, as I feared the consequences. The Committee, I trust, will negative the resolution before them. But how ever hon. members may be disposed to act, I shall give it all the opposition in my power.

Mr. COOPER—Before representation be given to Summerside something else should be taken into consideration. No arrangement has yet been made there respecting public buildings, and other things which require to be attended to in every town. In other places when a town is laid off, the people generally elect magistrates, who have the power to regulate all such matters. Some provision of this kind should be made in Summerside before it can have a claim to representation. Again, we should ascertain what it will do for the general revenue, before we give it this privilege. I consider the House ought to defer this subject for the present, and no doubt the enterprising people of that place will make application for the necessary regulations.

DAVID LAIRD, Reporter.

(To be continued.)

Correspondence.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

SIR,—I think it is very proper to call public attention to the arbitrary conduct of the Board of Education, and to let the District Teachers throughout the Island know the manner in which they are to be treated by this sapient band of partisans. Before going further, perhaps it would be as well to give the names of the members of the Board. They are:

Rev. S. Patterson—*Presbyterian*,
Rev. Thomas Duncan—*Presbyterian*,
Rev. George Sutherland—*Presbyterian*,,
John McNeill, Esquire—*Presbyterian*,
Rev. D. Fitzgerald—*Church of England*,
Hon. Joseph Hensley—*Church of England*,
John Kenny, Esquire—*Roman Catholic*.

Judging from the preponderance of the Presbyterian element in the Board, it is impossible, I should think, for Roman Catholics to have much confidence in it. Moreover, it is certain that many Protestants feel very much aggrieved at not being represented at the Board. Mark well, that there are four Presbyterians on it, whereas there is not one Baptist, not one Wesleyan Methodist, not one Bible Christian in connection with it! I would say that the Rev. Dr. Knox, the Rev. Mr. Sutcliffe, and the Rev. Mr. Barker, are as much entitled to a seat at the Board as the Revds. Messrs. Duncan and Sutherland. Why was not the Rev. Donald McDonald, of Belfast, appointed a member of the Board? He has been a long time on the Island, he is a respectable Minister, of urbane manners, and he is a good scholar, and I believe that he is too liberal minded to have his opinions warped by bigotry. Perhaps the real cause of neither of the four last mentioned gentlemen being appointed to a seat at the Board is, because they refused, at the time of the last election, to degrade their ministry by exciting unjust prejudices against Roman Catholics.

For the last few weeks there have been in Charlottetown a number of District Teachers—perhaps forty—preparing themselves with the greatest possible diligence to repass the Board of Education, according to the requirements of the Act recently passed by our Legislature. It is quite unnecessary for me to say that their absence from home, travelling expenses, board, &c., in Charlottetown, have caused