

surprising that it should excite the ridicule as well as disgust of all thinking men in the colony, to see the attempt to govern the affairs of this rising state by the royal prerogative, exercised by one of her Majesty's principal secretaries of state, in despatches to a governor, whose recommendations are usually adopted, thus making him, at least in part, his own instructor. When the time necessary to pass these communications, which is at least eight months, is considered, there appears great reason for reform, and it is not surprising that the thinking part of the population are very urgent for it.

The high and confidential officer of the crown, which the Governor really is, is looked upon as the mere agent of the ministry at home.

The community do not feel themselves at all protected by the Legislative Council, although they have, apparently, a voice in its proceedings; as its members are composed, to the extent of one half, of persons who do not hold office. In practice, it is not found that this amounts to a check; for on all government questions the members who hold office will be present, and therefore vote in their full strength; while the members of the people, appointed from the most respectable landholders by the crown, do not take sufficient interest in the proceedings to give that punctual attendance that might be required for the interest of those whom they are intended to represent. But even if all were present, the Governor, with his two votes, would always decide the matter in favour of the government; and as before stated, no new law can be considered in council, unless prepared by the Governor, which must effectually prevent any innovations being brought forward by those who represent the interest of the inhabitants of the colony. The only power they have is a negative one: that of entering their protest, and having it sent home for consideration by her Majesty's ministers; but in such case there is little likelihood of its meeting with favour. The official members, on the other hand, are considered as bound to support the Governor or to lose their seats and offices, notwithstanding their oaths faithfully to advise, to the best of their ability and judgment, the government of the colony.

The principal check on the Governor and his Council is the public press, whose conductors are strenuous advocates for reform and colonial rights, and exhibit much ability.

The statute of New South Wales expired in 1839, when it was renewed for a year, and has subsequently been renewed from year to year until the present time (1840). So evident, however, were the defects in the administration, that a clause was added to the act of renewal, declaring that the statute was deemed in many respects