

Mr. Macdonald said that, the more unanimous the house was on one prominent feature of the speech, the more notice had they for noticing those points in the general state of affairs on which they disputed. He was rejoiced to find that retrenchments had taken place in our military establishments: if there had not, ministers would have deserved impeachment. But he regretted that of civil retrenchment he regretted that no hopes, but ~~vague~~ ^{ones}, were held out: especially he regretted ~~it~~ ^{this}, in reference to the collection of the Revenue, which now cost four millions annually. ~~As to the increase of the Revenue, it was undoubtedly that the people had been able to pay nearly four millions more than last year: but that would not remedy the national evils: nothing but a careful~~ ^{As to the increase of the Revenue, it was undoubtedly that the people ~~were~~ ^{had been able} to pay nearly four millions more than last year: but that would not remedy ~~the national evils:~~ ^{our financial} ~~nothing but a careful~~ ^{increase} ~~increase~~ ^{of} ~~commerce could do that:~~ ^{and that would bring other evils, by} ~~absorbing~~ ^{absorbing} ~~too great a part of our population~~ ⁱⁿ ~~in manufacturing labor.~~ ^{most much as} This led him to consider the present condition of our population: on which subject, he lamented the increase of crime, the overflow of our prisons, the legitimization of pauperism. ~~With respect to foreign politics,~~ ^{From the possibility of going to foreign} ~~we might in various ways, be engaged again in war:~~ ^{What} ~~what should hinder it? The alliances, which we had made? - They were wholly ineffectual for that end:~~ ^{For} ~~what were they effectual? For nothing which the nation regarded.~~ ^{thought as impr. or a plan. thought} ~~the abolition of the Slave Trade, which ~~we~~ Spain under Ferdinand had~~ ^{been} ~~been bought (if not brought) to give up, ~~was not denounced in spite~~~~ ^{of} ~~of all the services rendered to the Bourbons.~~ ^{of that he had set himself to} This infernal trade would thrive, so long as France opposed its entire abolition: and thence it did. To return to ~~the~~ internal politics, - the speech was wholly silent on all acknowledged grievances. In particular, with respect to the abuses of Public Charities, no notice had been taken of the act for appointing a Commission to inquire into them: the speech did not say whether that act had been put in force. Here Mr. Macdonald, ~~after saying that he would not trouble the house on this~~}

subject considering how much his friend Mr. Brougham would be sure to trouble them in the course of the Session, ^{he} did however trouble them a little; and travelled over the old ground - insisting chiefly on these four points: 1. that the objects of the inquiry commission were too much narrowed; ^{as contained in the original bill} 2. that the powers by which the commission was to ~~be exercised~~ ^{was to compass these objects} were too ~~limited~~ ^{narrowed}; 3. that ~~in~~ the nomination of the ~~Commission~~ members of that Commission was bad in principle, inasmuch as it proceeded from the Secretary of State and not from the House of Commons: 4. that the nomination was bad in fact, inasmuch as it excluded all who were friendly to earnest and radical inquiry - more especially as it excluded him who was the ^{more} ~~present~~ of the whole ~~inquiry~~ ^{inquiry} business - and the original cause that any inquiry was at all was ^{instigated} ~~thought of~~. Passing from particulars to ^{things in general} ~~generals~~, - and ^{domus} to speak of the conduct of affairs in the ~~to~~ largest extent, - there was & throughout the nation a general dissatisfaction, and in some cases ~~to~~ ^{acknowledged} a malignant and ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~temporary~~ ⁱⁿ ~~dissatisfaction~~, manifested ~~at~~ with the present administration. Those, who moved and seconded the Address, ~~it~~ ^{seemed} to think this criminal. For his own part, it gave him no pleasure to witness it. But certainly it could not but extort from all persons this conclusion, ^{such a} that this dissatisfaction could not exist without an adequate cause. What was this cause? ~~Why was it~~ Whence was it that an administration, to under whom ~~it~~ would be paltry party-spirit to deny that ^{our} the military glory of this country had been carried to the highest point, were ~~viewed~~ ^{viewed} by the majority of the people with indifference and with disaffection by the remainder? Whence, I say, is it? - ~~What~~ What is the solution of this apparent riddle? W. Sp., 7 Feb 1849.