

observations. He meant to give his support to that resolution, which, without an explanation, would doubtless be considered an inconsistency. Yesterday a paper was sent round to the inhabitants for signature, purporting to be in favour of Mr. Valpy's representing this settlement in the Legislative Council of New Zealand. He (Mr. Langlands) had but lately come hither, and was unacquainted with the nature of the Government arrangements for the colony, but deemed it a full and just system of representation; and, besides, actuated by feelings of the highest respect for Mr. Valpy, and believing him qualified for the position of representative for Otago, he had signed that document. Subsequent inquiries, however, had convinced him that, according to the present system, it was impossible there could be any proper representation made of us in the Legislative Council, and he therefore would support the resolution, notwithstanding having attached his name to that paper. Further he (Mr. Langlands) was confident that there were not a few who, having signed that document in similar circumstances with himself, were equally desirous of withdrawing from it, and thought, with a previous speaker, that the chairman ought to afford them an opportunity of expressing themselves.

Much noise and confusion followed Mr. Langland's remarks. The resolution was put and carried by a large majority. Thanks were voted to the chairman, and the meeting separated.

Enclosure 2 in No. 17.

Mr. F. PEEL, M.P., to Mr. J. MCGLASHAN.

SIR,—

Downing Street, 21st January, 1852.

I am directed by Earl Grey to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th instant, and to request that you will express to the committee of the Otago Association his Lordship's thanks for the copy which it enclosed, of the letter which they had addressed to Captain Cargill relative to the nomination of Mr. Valpy as a member of the Legislative Council of New Zealand.

J. McGlashan, Esq.

I have, &c.,  
F. PEEL.

Enclosure 3 in No. 17.

Mr. J. MCGLASHAN to Earl GREY.

MY LORD,—

Otago Office, Edinburgh, 24th January, 1852.

The committee of the Otago Association understand that there is reason to fear some demur on the part of the local Government to forming Otago into a separate province, with representative institutions, when the Provincial Councils Ordinance passes into a law, on the ground that its revenue is insufficient for the salaries of Government officers. They have received from the settlers a communication relative to means for making roads; and, by various parties, settlers, and intending settlers, entreaties have been made to get the Charter immediately completed. They trust, therefore, to be excused for making the following representation to your Lordship on these several subjects.

2. The revenue of the settlement for the current year, the fourth of its existence, will be, they believe, above £3,500, and there cannot be a doubt of its steadily increasing. Assuming this estimate, the settlers are of opinion (and the committee concur with them) that the revenue is adequate for reasonable salaries to such Government officers as will be required; that even two-thirds of it will be sufficient for the purpose, and that the remaining third may be saved for roads and improvements if due attention to economy and the wants of the settlements be exercised.

3. Were it a necessary consequence of Otago being made a separate province that there must be appointments to every one of the offices usually connected with provincial government, whether there should be duties to perform or not, or however slight the duties, and that salaries must be attached to them similar in amount to those of the like offices in the larger existing provinces, the present revenue would indeed be insufficient.

4. But the settlers cannot see, nor, they are persuaded, does your Lordship, the necessity of there being more appointments or larger salaries than the legitimate object of such appointments absolutely requires.

5. Your Lordship has already intimated that you are "fully impressed with the expediency of adhering to the principle advocated by the settlers that the salaries attached to official appointments in the settlements should be proportioned to the condition and means of the community." And this principle is akin if not identical with the other that the number of appointments and the amount of salaries should not exceed what is necessary for effective service.

6. There is another gratifying decision to which your Lordship has come that is entirely in accordance with the sentiments of the inhabitants of Otago. In your Lordship's despatch to Governor Sir George Grey, of date 19th February, 1851, it is announced as your opinion that the further subdivision of New Munster into provinces is desirable; and it is added, "I am not satisfied of the expediency of establishing in these smaller provinces Councils entirely nominated by the Crown, as you appear to suggest in your despatch of the 30th November, 1849. I think, on the contrary, that no new provinces should be constituted unless the representative element can be introduced into its Councils. But even with a very small population this appears to me practicable."

7. The committee may perhaps be allowed to say that they entirely coincide in that decision, for which they think the people of Otago are under lasting obligations to your Lordship. They are perfectly satisfied that, in as far as Otago is concerned, all that is requisite in order to carry out your Lordship's practical and salutary views is that in the administration of its affairs the strictest economy be observed consistent with effective service, and that the existing arrangements be revised with a view to others being substituted conformable to this requirement.

8. For in the infancy of the settlement two or more offices, not incompatible, may be provisionally concentrated in one person with positive advantage and economy in point of execution and expense; and in a population composed of men of frugal habits, and knit together by reverence for principles and