

natural enough, have from time to time reached me from certain outlying districts, alleging neglect of the claims of the inhabitants of those districts upon the Treasury. These complaints, although often quite inconsistent with a liberal judgment on past attempts to effect a fair balance of conflicting demands, and the great difficulty, nay impossibility, hitherto of their adjustment by reference to abstract rules or axioms never as yet formally recognised by the Legislature, yet those complaints have, I believe, generally arisen out of circumstances that have excited a galling belief that the land revenue has not been administered fully in accordance with the uses to which they (the complainants), before they became land purchasers, justly considered the land revenue to be mainly limited.

I believe, gentlemen, that after your deliberations of this session there will be an entire absence of any substantial ground for discontent of the nature I have indicated, and am hopeful that any impulsive tendency towards dismemberment of the Province, encouraged as it has been by the existence of a law called the "New Pro-

vinces Act," may entirely disappear from Canterbury.

Since the last extension of the number of the Provincial Council in 1857, the population has not only very materially increased, but the respective populations and interests of the different districts no longer bear the same relative proportion one to the other as formerly. It has therefore become desirable to effect a re-adjustment of the representation. For this purpose I shall cause to be presented to you a bill providing additional members for both the northern and southern districts of the Province, and thus increasing the number of the Council from 26 to 33.

Recent advices from the Northern Island justify a strong hope that the late native disturbances have definitely ceased, and that therefore Canterbury, in common with the other Provinces of this island, at any rate, will not be called upon to defend their claim to entire exemption from all charges in respect of an internal war, that may perhaps be regarded, under recent circumstances, as having been necessary on various