

party—the Halifax Chronicle, the Eastern Chronicle, the Yarmouth Tribune, and Cape Breton News—not only published the letters of Mr. Howe, but accompanied them with editorials. The government did not put a pen to paper, nor by any act of theirs disapprove of the course adopted. The government could not ask him to support them. He regretted parting with them, for he entertained the highest respect for them, having received every kindness at their hands. Having now taken up his position, crossed the line, and entered into the ranks of the opposition, he wished it to be understood that he would not lend himself to raise one class over another.

Hon. Attorney General explained that the government kept itself aloof from this unfortunate quarrel between Mr. Howe and the Catholic body. They took no part, and exercised no influence. The equality of all classes—the ascendancy of none—was his principle. He had never favored, or designed to favor, a proscription of any class or interest in the country. The government has taken the responsibility of dismissing Mr. Condon. Why they had so, and why at that particular time, he would be prepared to explain satisfactorily to the house.

Mr. Annand denied the charge that the hon. gentleman from Windsor and himself designed to proscribe any persons on account of their religion. Mr. Condon should have been dismissed immediately after the Crampton meeting. Up to the present time he has never set himself right with the government. If the government fall, he would go down with it, rejoicing in the defence of a great public principle. The true issue is, not whether the government has done its duty, but whether the country will see a government turned out of power because it has done to an individual at the last hour what they ought to have done to him months since. If the government had still retained Mr. Condon, he would no longer have remained a supporter of it, and would have tendered his office at once. He was willing to go into opposition with his principles before him, and abide the issue.

Mr. Churchill did not rise to make an attack upon the government as he never makes it a principle to strike a man when he is down. He compared the government to a ship stranding on the shore, and concluded that the ship would be lost while the lives would be saved. He mentioned several local grievances against the government; he prophesied the fall of the administration. It was his own vessel that brought an instalment of the Foreign Legion from Boston. As they came towards Hantsport, on the way to Halifax, and when near the shore, the men gave three cheers for Sebastopol, and the Ship Carpenters on the shore returned it. He came to the house without any prejudices, determined to give his heart and hand to every gentleman; but from a quarter where he least expected it he got the cold shoulder. The Catholics will be just the same with the Conservatives as they have been with the Liberals,—they must hold the balance of power between the parties; he was not afraid of them; if they get fair play they be quite content.

Mr. McLellan said, the government had done nothing to lose his confidence, and he would therefore continue his support.

Mr. Whitman said he did not consider the speech of the hon. member for Windsor at all relevant to the question under debate. He referred to the position of the Conservative body, and remarked that they remained as they always had been, true to their principles. But he had a private affair of his own with the Government. The present representative of Annapolis had been returned for ten years by large majorities,—during all that time they had never been once consulted by the Government with regard to the affairs of the county.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 11.

Dr. Tupper presented a petition praying better accommodation for reporting debates.

Several bills and petitions were introduced, after which the House resumed the adjourned debate.

Mr. M. I. Wilkins said he had been a steady opponent of the government since 1851; and would not then address the House, if it had not been for remarks of the hon. member for Windsor. He was in hopes the hon. gentleman would have sealed his lips on the present occasion. He compared the position of the government to the occupants of a splendid palace, fitted up with all imaginable comforts and luxuries—wrongfully in possession of persons who were trespassers against the will of the landlord—who had no right to turn round and say:—"But before we give it up, you must tell us what you are going to do with it—what company you are going to keep, and what you are going to do with the wines in the cellar." This was exactly the position of the present government. He differed with the hon. member for Windsor respecting the inception of his connection with the Foreign Enlistment. He was informed that the appointment was made by his Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, and that the despatches were directed to his Excellency, and had nothing to do with the Provincial Government. He thought that if the hon. Mr. Howe could have an important and responsible office for several months, he had therefore damaged the government, by showing the inefficiency of their administrative ability, or else the office itself was a sinecure. He would touch upon the vexed question of the dismissal of Mr. Condon. There is no evidence whatever that the men who came down here, and represented themselves to the Irish Society as having been kidnapped, were actually engaged for the enlistment service; that neither his Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, Provincial Secretary, nor any other functionary of the government, knew that these men were engaged for the Foreign Legion. He

justified Mr. Condon's conduct, and thought that he had done nothing more than his duty.

On the 16th day of January last, the hon. member for Windsor called the attention of the government to Mr. Condon's conduct. It should have been their duty if they disapproved of his conduct, to have called upon him to give an account of himself; but he was allowed to continue in his office without any explanation being demanded. Mr. C. had not been tried for the offence, but was dismissed without a hearing, and sacrificed upon the altar of malice. He was amused to hear the whole body of Catholics abused because the Catholic newspaper, edited by one of that body, wrote an article against the Russian war. Who proclaimed to the Russians that England was unable to compete with Russia? Why the British press.

He thought the honorable member for Halifax, guilty of a greater crime against his own government, than Mr. Condon against the British government. He had watched the conception, birth, early infancy, childhood, old age, and death of a party who were to be the progressive party, and had taken to themselves the eponymous title of the Great Liberal Party of Nova Scotia.

He read extracts from the Hon. Mr. Howe's letters, and severely commented upon them. He contended that it was exceedingly impolitic and unjust to charge any religious body with such statements, and it is no wonder the members of the body so insulted would abandon the men who would propagate such statements. The whole structure of responsible government, was based upon deception and fraud,—he thought the country wouldn't be troubled with it much longer. If the great liberal party of Nova Scotia could hardly get along with the assistance of the Catholics, he was curious enough to know the fragment that would be left when the Catholics have abandoned them. The Catholic party, after the experience of the past have determined to support his side of the house, because they have felt that greater confidence can be placed in the conservative party of the country. It is their own act, the conservative party have never influenced them in the slightest degree. That party would do another act of public benefit, that of ridding the country of a structure founded in deceit, and as far as was concerned they should not be wanting in their reward. This was an able and humorous speech, and provoked much merriment through the house.

Hon. Mr. Howe, was in hopes the Provincial Secretary would have stated his reasons for leaving the government; but as he had not done so, and no person was disposed to take the floor, he could not allow the remarks of the hon. member from Pictou to remain unanswered a single instant. If instead of taking passages here and there of his letters, and perverting their real meaning, he would read them through and judge of them by the tone and spirit that pervades them—he would defy him to maintain the construction attempted to be put upon them. The hon. gentleman from Pictou talked as though the structure of Responsible Government was coming down. There is not another man in the Assembly who would have denied the value of the introduction of responsible government into this country.

The hon. gentleman thanked Providence that at least in his day the machinery of a constitutional system was established by which bad governments can be got rid of. He never valued office—and would never hold office at the sacrifice of those constitutional principles by which a ministry can be displaced. But suppose he had written an intemperate letter—or done some one improper act during a long conflict of 20 or 25 years—or had taken one imprudent step—such as to require the grave consideration of his own friends,—suppose, for the sake of argument, all that is attributed to him his true—even the gentleman whose passions the honorable member has attempted to inflame, would act the part of bad, ungenerous friends, if, for a single act, they condemned him without affording him the most full and ample explanations. He positively denied the interpretation put upon his letters. Did he say that Gourlay's shanty was destroyed in the name of religion? Not only did he not charge it upon the Catholic body, but he challenged any member to produce a single paragraph to that effect until the expression was first used by the editor of the Catholic himself, did he deal with it in that light. He had not forgotten when the Conservatives themselves raised the cry of Catholic ascendancy—and he was one of those who stood up in their defence and satisfied the people of this Province that there was no act of theirs which justified such a conclusion.

Things had gone so far that he believed the time had come when somebody was bound to give a caution and a warning. Last session a Catholic Liberal took him by the arm and said:—"Howe, I will take care of you, but we are going to smash up the government." Shortly after this one of them left the government, and the other led up an opposition and called upon his co-religionists to come to his aid. All this created a good deal of uneasiness. The President of the Legislative Council throws up his office in a very extraordinary manner. The claims of that gentleman's family had not been slighted by the party, and in the midst of the business of the country he is found throwing the government into confusion—giving a pretty significant hint to his honorable friend the leader of the government, of the feeling entertained towards him by the Catholic body. He did not say that Protestants had a right to laugh at other people's religion. He merely said men might laugh if they pleased—but you have no right to break their heads if they do so. Nothing would pay or tempt him to become a religious persecutor. His letters were written with a view to caution and warn others. He pays to the Catholic Church that respect which a widely extended and historically interesting church demands at his hands—and does not for a moment imagine

he could destroy or cripple it. Yet he does not pretend to say he is not in heart and soul a Protestant. As Nova Scotians respect the nationality of Ireland, so must Irishmen respect our nationality; and, they should remember, we feel taunts and insults to our religion as keenly and just as warmly as any Catholic can do.

He would suppose the opposition succeeded—Howe discontenanced, and the Liberal party destroyed. He thought the opposition and their allies would not be united long. With regard to his mission to the United States, the undertaking over which he was the head did not suffer during his absence. He left behind him those who were competent to carry it on satisfactorily and well.

Mr. Marshall designated Mr. Howe as leading on a religious crusade, and said he (Mr. H.) started upon that principle, and, on public occasions, had not spared the feelings of the most respectable families in the community. Had abused the Episcopalians, of which church he had the honor to be a member. Led up an opposition against King's College, until it was a positive disqualification for an Episcopalian to hold office. He described the administration as a corrupted one, from weakness and indecision. It was unconstitutional to hold out a threat of dissolution. He did not fear anything of the kind, and hoped it would not intimidate any of the members. He said at this moment there was not one of his name holding a public situation, while there was not one of Mr. Howe's name but what was fastened to some public office for all the days of his life.

Mr. McKeagney denied that he attempted to influence any of his co-religionists. It was Mr. Howe who had created all the disaffection, and had attempted to proscribe the Catholics of Nova Scotia, and driven them over to the ranks of the opposition.

THURSDAY, Feb. 12.

Mr. Chambers spoke at some length against the resolution. He charged the defeat of the Prohibitory Liquor Bill to the Opposition; and, in reference to the Municipal Incorporation Bill, he supported it. It has been his motto through life, to maintain equal justice to all sects and creeds. He said there were a number of men in the house who were ready to pounce upon a vacant office when it offered. Such men are a curse to any Legislature. He cited one or two instances of Mr. McKeagney's anxiety to fill the speaker's chair. He was one who demanded the dismissal of Mr. Condon, not because he was a Catholic, but because Mr. Condon had violated those principles propounded by the leader before the last election.

He supposed the leader of the opposition expected in a few days to take possession of the citadel. It would take fourteen days bombardment, and if they gained it they would not require ten days more to re-take it.

Mr. Henry proceeded to give his reasons for the course he has taken. He would not do it with a desire to overturn his friends in the government. The course he has taken was solely dictated to him by views he has entertained for months.

Up to two days after the meeting of the Legislature Mr. Condon was retained in his office. He could never understand that there was a distinction between the position of Mr. Condon, the hon. gentleman from Windsor, and the Queen's Printer. The hon. and learned member for Windsor attacked a large portion of the supporters of the government; if he had stopped there his course would have been clear. He has for sixteen years represented a constituency of 11,500 Catholics and 2,000 Protestants. He felt that when they were insulted, he was bound to protect them, or any other body of men. Sooner than remain in a government hostile to them, he would resign his office.

It was the duty of the hon. gentleman to have conveyed the information to the Government, and then to have seen if they would have acted upon it. He (Hon. Mr. Henry) had a snug office of £700, and if office had charms for him, he would have remained in it. The best office in Nova Scotia would not tempt him to act contrary to his own convictions.

Mr. Morrison said, the journals of the House prove conclusively that at the last session of the House, the government did possess the confidence of the house; and one gentleman who has gone over to the other side has so stated on the floor of the house.

Mr. McFarlane was in favor of doing justice to all parties, and enumerated the number of Presbyterians who filed the chief offices of emolument in the country. The Statute Book for 1856 does not contain any one single Bill introduced and carried by the government. He had no confidence in the government in 1856—he has no confidence now.

He read over a list which showed the distribution of offices in the county of Cumberland—a large majority being filled by liberals. Although redress was promised in this particular it has never been done by the government. He feared this country was about entering upon a state of things not to be desired, by the introduction of religious strife into the political element.

Mr. McDonald remarked that there is no allegation against the government that the public revenues have been misappropriated, or that the Railway affairs have been mismanaged—which, after all, are the real questions of interest before the country. He referred to the honorable member from Cumberland and would just give an idea of his sincerity, when, last winter, he attempted to get up a party in the House which would systematically exclude a certain party from office in this country.

Dr. Tupper gave an emphatic contradiction to the statements made by the hon. member from Pictou. The hon. gentleman had ventured to charge him with attempting to form a party with

the object of excluding the Roman Catholics—a more unqualified falsehood was never uttered in the face of any Legislature,—he never aimed at the exclusion of that body, and would be no party to an administration that did not give the head of one department to a Roman Catholic. He then reviewed the speech of the honorable gentleman from Windsor,—charged Mr. Howe with attempting to arouse a deadly religious hostility of the Protestants of Nova Scotia against the Catholic community. In one breath he calls himself the leader of the Protestant party, and in the next he professes to be the warmest friend of the Roman Catholics. The hon. gentleman then proceeded at some length to take up the arguments of Mr. Howe; and in reference to the suggestion of the Solicitor General that the Revenue Bill should be passed, and sent to the other house, he said that the Legislative Council was at present without a head, and that the government were in such a state of dislocation that they could not appoint a President nor lay a Revenue Bill upon the table of the house.

FRIDAY, Feb. 13.

The hon. Attorney General said notwithstanding the vituperation and abuse heaped upon the administration since the commencement of the debate, there was some lingering vitality in the party, sufficient at this moment to sustain the government. It would be found, at the close of the debate, that by a close division of the House the government would sustain the attack. He approached the debate under the idea that he was addressing men whose minds were open to conviction. He asked what ground was there upon which he opposition can hope to succeed in their vote of want of confidence? When it is remembered that £400,000 passed through the hands of the administration in 1856, is it nothing that a universal conviction prevails that not a single pound of the provincial revenue has been neglected to be called in, or in any way misappropriated? The hands of the government are clean and pure, and if it falls, a hostile vote may place it in abler hands, but more upright and more honorable men than the present administration there cannot be. As regards the insinuations respecting the railway accounts, do not let anybody suppose that all is spot fair, honorable, and above board. If the answer to the address had been allowed to pass, the accounts would have been open to the fullest inspection of every member of the house. He had every reason to believe, if any suspicion rests upon the management of that public work, there is not for that suspicion the slightest grounds in point of fact. The honorable members for Cumberland and Guysboro have used language, in the course of the debate, of the most insulting character, and which no gentleman could bear without disgust. The former gentlemen is celebrated for mighty smooth talking with a cool and polished exterior, but somewhat treacherous; he quotes Latin at will, and gives it the Catholic application—slanderous in the last degree, and has enlivened the house with not a few borrowed jokes. (Dr. T. here requested the hon. gentleman to retract the offensive epithet "treacherous" as applied to him; which however was not complied with.) He denied that the government had, or were in a position to exercise, any direct control over the Morning Chronicle or any of the papers referred to. The charge was preposterous. He deeply deplored the attack on his honorable friend Mr. McKinnon; the Chronicle had even assailed the government,—and is it consistent that the government would suffer its taunts about independent action if it exercised any control over it? The credit of the province never stood higher, no financial crisis having occurred during the year. He attributed the defeat of the Prohibitory Bill to the opposition. With regard to the Fishery and Reciprocity question, the Legislature would not repeal that act to-morrow if they had the power. He reviewed Mr. Johnston's action upon the Prohibitory Bill.

It would seem a change has come over the Catholics of Nova Scotia that indicates a singular abandonment of old friends and party connections, and connecting themselves with former enemies. He recollected, during the election of 1847, when he came into power, the grand difficulty with which they had to combat was the cry of Catholic ascendancy, from every corner of Nova Scotia. Liberal candidates were assailed that they were placing too much power in the hands of Catholics. It came in varied tones from the Conservative press of Nova Scotia, and from the lips of its leading men, and from none more earnestly and vehemently than from the hon. member from Annapolis. He read extracts from the newspaper literature of that day; reports of speeches made by Mr. Johnston and himself. The Liberals strenuously advocated an enlargement of their liberties, while the Conservative press and party openly avowed an intention to proscribe them if they succeeded at the elections. This was sufficient to let the Catholic body see the disposition and temper of the men they are going to ally themselves to in consequence of a private quarrel between them and the Chairman of the Board of Railways, with which the Government had nothing to do. He produced the Cross, the Catholic organ of that day, which stated that while the Catholics numbered over 80,000 not one was permitted, under the liberality and wisdom of the Falkland administration, to hold the most petty situation. Such was the condition of the Catholic body while the conservatives held office. He contrasted the position then with now—which showed that Catholics everywhere possessed a fair share of the offices. It was elevating Mr. Comeau to the Legislative Council

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