

Mr. PARTELOW said he yesterday submitted certain Resolutions, as amendments to those of His Honor the Speaker, since which a variety of others had been introduced; and as it appeared that so many resolutions would create a mass of confusion, and interminable debate, he had determined to withdraw them, as they had merely been laid upon the table and had not been seconded. It appeared yesterday from the range of the debate, that the Despatch had been misunderstood, and instead of the subject matter of it being discussed, it had turned upon responsible government. He had turned his attention to what took place in '37, and found that the House repudiated the principle, then advanced by a neighbouring colony, that the Executive Council should at all times be subject to popular control, or rather to removal by addresses for that purpose from the House; and which was passed by a majority, that might be considered as expressing the unanimous opinion of the Assembly. He was one of that majority, and had not since seen occasion to alter his mind. At present the Province has an Executive government in which every confidence is placed; and he therefore considered it would be unwise to make any determination upon the Resolution before the committee. With reference to the despatch itself, he considered His Excellency had been badly advised when induced to lay it before the House, which had nothing to do with it; nor was it required that they should express any opinion upon the subject.—With reference to the term responsible government, as understood by the learned member for Charlotte, he did not see how it could apply to the condition of this country. In England the people were divided into two great political parties; and when either went out of office, a dissolution of parliament became necessary, in order that the opinion of the nation might be ascertained as regarded their successors.—There the government was conducted upon some ascertained and fixed principles. In this country however it is different; and should a case occur in which His Excellency should dissolve an Assembly and send it back to the people; every one knew it was not the politics of any honorable member that would settle the question, but that the usefulness of the member to his constituents would have more effect upon the minds of voters, than any political act of a gentleman, while in the House. He therefore repeated his intention to withdraw his Resolutions, which as they had not been seconded, he considered as his own private property; and designed to substitute for them the following amendment:

Resolved, as the opinion of this Committee, that there is nothing in the Despatch of the Right Honorable Lord John Russell, now under consideration, to call forth any expression from the House on the subject of Colonial Government, and that in the event of any occurrence taking place to disturb the present happy political state of the Province; the House cannot but entertain the opinion that any loyal and dutiful representations which they may have occasion to lay at the foot of the Throne, will receive, as they have always done, the Royal consideration.

Mr. WILSON said he rose with some hesitation, which was not relieved by the difference of opinion which existed among members themselves. When an alteration in the manner of conducting government was at any time threatened, it was natural to turn attention to the past, and contrast the former situation of the Province with the present; and if good reason for a change could be perceived, then it would be proper to adopt it, and by making alterations, remedy any evils that might exist. But when he reflected upon the prosperous state of the Province, and when he found its condition was never in a better state than at the present time, he did not think there were any exigencies occurring, which called for the proposed alteration in the constitution of the colony. He thought the best legislation was prudence, and that they should be careful of innovations; which was illustrated by the diversity of opinion among members themselves. The farming, mercantile and professional interests he said were all in a prosperous condition; and care should be taken, that those interests were not injured by uncalculated and unnecessary change. Another consideration which weighed in his mind, was the situation of the poor man in this Province, and nowhere could a person make a more comfortable living, or more easily gather around him the luxuries of life, than in N. Brunswick. Let gentlemen look at the parochial taxes and see how small a sum is required to pay them; where a man with £5000 in property is not called upon to pay annually more than five shillings; the resources of the Province being made applicable to its requirements. He therefore contended the country was in a prosperous condition, and presented evidence of its being well governed. This circumstance would induce him to reject any proposed alteration, arising from the theoretical views of any minister. The mode of conducting the Government hitherto had worked well for the country; and to any complaints which had been made against Departments, a full answer had been received; and one which was satisfactory to the House and the Province. This responsibility had already been felt as working well in the Provincial government; and he would not alter or attempt to amend it. He meant to say there was already a system in operation which was adequate for every useful purpose, and which whenever evils occurred, pointed out the means of redress. There was another circumstance which weighed with him, he did not think it was of importance to have such frequent removals of public officers, as some people might deem advisable, and which had nothing to do with the good government of the country. They did not fill their situations as politicians, but held them for the support of their families; and consequently it was of little importance what were the politics of an individual. It was different however as respects the Executive Council, and he thought it was of the utmost importance that their conduct should be watched,—particularly with reference to those gentlemen who held seats in the House,—when the construction placed on the despatch by Sir John Harvey was taken into account.—There had hitherto been no complaint as to the standing of members of that body in the House, because they had been free to act in their legislative capacity. But their situation had been materially altered in his mind, by the construction which had been put upon the despatch by His Excellency; for if the Executive Council were to be at the beck and nod of the Lieut. Governor, the consequences would be fatal to the liberty of the subject; as if they could bring all the weight of their influence to bear upon a measure before the House, its usefulness and independence would be materially curtailed.—As had been observed by the learned member for the county of York, let them keep in mind the duty which as their representatives, they owe the people of the country, and let the other branches take care of themselves; and take care that the freedom of the representative branch was not injuriously affected, by the infusion of executive influence into the House; which owing to the construction placed upon the despatch by the Executive, might operate injuriously upon the liberties of the people.—He meant nothing personal, and made those observations generally, and in the discharge of his duty. The hon. gentleman said he would

here refer to a rumour which was generally prevalent, that His Excellency did not consult his council as much as he should; and he wished to put a question to those members of it, who were in the House as to the fact. He was aware it might be said that the appointment of a Surveyor General was a prerogative of the Crown; but still he held it was the duty of the Lieut. Governor in filling up the appointment to consult the Executive Council, whose advice he was constitutionally required to ask. He hoped however the charge might be denied, and that it would appear His Excellency did consult that body; but he believed the appointment in the Land office was without their knowledge. He recollected that when the office of Master of the Rolls was about to be established by the House, it was generally understood that the sentiments of the House would be consulted, and that the present Surveyor General would not have that office; and it was strange, if he were not thought competent to discharge the duties of an office which was in the line of his profession, he should be considered as competent to perform those of the Surveyor General. He hoped his remarks would not be deemed invidious, but he felt the subject was connected with that before the House. Another thing had occurred to his mind; it was understood that the effect of responsible government, was the producing a responsibility to the people; but according to His Excellency's construction of the despatch, all the responsibility was to concentrate in himself, and he again was to be responsible to the colonial office and not to the people. He therefore thought it was a perversion of the despatch.

This might operate very well with a Governor like the present, and under present circumstances; but if such a circular had appeared in the time of Sir Archd. Campbell, in what manner would it have been hailed.—He would have been considered a Dictator. For his part he looked at measures and not men. The Province might have another governor; as the learned member for Restigouche had said yesterday, they might have a Tory in place of the present liberal government; and under such circumstances, in what condition would the people of this Province be placed. The hon. gentleman said he should like to have that part of the despatch explained, which proposed that officers were to have retiring salaries; that is, if they were found incompetent or happened to differ with the administrator of the government, they were to be provided for. This had not been attended to in debate, but it was of importance and might be rendered at once burdensome and odious. It was only the other day, that the Commissioner of Crown Lands received a retiring salary; that must have been an act in which the Executive Council were not consulted. And if a young man in the prime of life had retired upon £600 or £300 a-year: was it not time to become alarmed as to the expenditure of public monies. No person was more desirous than himself of seeing long and useful services rewarded in that way; but he could not conceive any claim which the gentleman in question had for superannuation. When a man became incapacitated by age, and from increasing infirmities became unequal to the discharge of his official duties; it then became an act of justice that he should receive a retiring salary. But was that the case with the Commissioner of Crown Lands.—Is he old, or incompetent; or did his services require that sort of compensation. If that were the case, then His Excellency was right. But if that gentleman had retired in the prime of life, if he were still capable of discharging the duties of his office; and he had never heard that he was incompetent.—If at his years and in full health and in the prime of life, he had retired with a large pension: what could the Province expect but that every officer will receive a retirement.—There would be a pension list indeed and if the Lt. Gov. tho't proper to grant a retired allowance in the present instance; why might he not do it in others. He thought the Committee therefore should be careful what they did, and that members had better not pledge themselves to any thing; he believed the country was satisfied with the course which had hitherto been pursued, and that any change would be unsatisfactory. The hon. gentleman concluded by saying, he did not understand what was meant by the term responsibility as construed in a high quarter, and he never saw the learned member for York so puzzled to convey the meaning of a word. He thought the country had better go on as at present; and if things continue as they are, its inhabitants enjoy every blessing they can reasonably desire; he was not willing to adopt theoretical changes, and thus produce practical evil. Before he sat down he said he should submit a Resolution expressive of the sentiments which he entertained. He thought the despatch had better be left alone, and that the less the Committee said about responsibility the better.

Hon. SPEAKER said, the present question involved considerations of great importance, and the result of which might affect or alter the constitution of the colony; and it appeared to be one of the plainest that could be imagined. The hon. and learned member for Westmorland had stated, that the despatch had puzzled him, and was altogether unintelligible; yet notwithstanding his acknowledgment that he did not understand it, he had proceeded at great length to give it a construction, which was not warranted by its letter or spirit; and therefore it might be inferred, that his views were not correct, and not entitled to consideration. The hon. member for St. John Mr. Partelow had expressed "his regret, that the Lieut. Governor had been advised to send down the despatch; and did not think that it called for any expression of opinion from the House." Now surely His Excellency ought not to be blamed for pursuing the course he did; and it was clear to his (the Speaker's) understanding, that it was the duty of the Lieut. Governor to lay the despatch before the House; as he was directed by Lord John Russell, to make it generally known; and which was certainly best effected, by laying it before the Legislature of the Province. Often hon. members had declared, that they did not understand it; but he was at a loss to conceive how a despatch which was so perfectly plain in its language and meaning could be misunderstood.—The Despatch he repeated was an exceedingly important one; and hon. members did not seem to understand the reason, which induced Her Majesty's government to send it to New Brunswick. We all know he said, that much dissatisfaction had prevailed in the Canadas, one of the principal causes of which would be removed; by the application of the principles involved in the despatch. Indeed this with the late just distribution of the Clergy reserves, had satisfied the people of Upper Canada; they required it, and were now proceeding harmoniously to carry it into full effect. Now as this despatch would if carried into effect, give to Canada an improved constitution, one more resembling the glorious British constitution, and approaching as near to it, as the relative situations with the parent State would admit; Her Majesty's government actuated by those principles of justice for which they have ever been distinguished, freely offered the same improved constitution to this Province. The people of the Province understood the despatch perfectly; what then would the constituency say, if their representatives after mature deliberation, should spurn a boon which had been freely offered by Her Majesty's Government; and which would have a prodigious effect upon the best interests of the people; giving to them a proper weight through their representatives, and an effectual remedy a-

gainst malversations of office. The Speaker could not understand, why a constitution should not work well in this Colony, which was so eminently beneficial in the mother country. Hon. members had said, that the Colony was not yet prepared for it; this opinion he considered a libel upon the Colonists. He had been in various parts of Great Britain and in Ireland; and that the people of the Province were as intelligent in all respects was beyond dispute. It was therefore astonishing, to hear hon. members objecting to receive the British Constitution here in its purity. The hon. member for Westmoreland, had travelled far out of the subject before the Committee, and referred to the Commissioner of Crown Lands; thereby endeavouring to excite alarm, with regard to pensioning that officer. There was no intention to pension public officers in future; the despatch very distinctly lays down the principle, that when public officers from measures of public policy are requested to retire, they are not to expect compensation. The hon. member also recommended the Committee to be cautious, not to express any opinion favourable to the despatch; and thinks that the Lieut. Governor was incorrect in his construction of it; and yet he confesses that he does not himself understand it. The Speaker would caution the Committee not to reject the despatch, for reasons which he would shortly explain. His Excellency gives public officers to understand that they are expected to support the measures of government, and enumerates those who will be affected by this despatch; and he would now ask, if there was anything improper in this? It was a monstrous state of things, when public officers with impunity array themselves in hostility against the government; and they should be made clearly to understand, that if they intended to pursue such a course, they would be required to retire. He would ask, is it not proper and absolutely necessary, that public officers who hold important situations, and who receive large salaries from government, should be required to support that government? There could be no doubt of it; the Speaker said that if the Committee should repudiate the despatch, and resolve that it ought not to apply to this Colony; such proceeding would be viewed with astonishment an indignation throughout the country; and the time would shortly come round, when they would have the privilege of giving effect to their feelings. He was very much surprised to hear any gentleman who professed to say that he represented the people, declaring his dislike to the principle of responsible government; and to the word "responsibility." Was the members aware that it was no new term; and that long since it came from royalty itself. He would remind the committee, that his late Majesty King William IV. of happy memory, in a speech from the throne, expressed his anxious desire to extend to all his subjects, "the blessings of responsible government." And yet a representative of the people of New Brunswick, is found to express his dislike to the term. Were it not for responsibility, society could not be held together; and he hoped the hon. member for Restigouche, would have his mind enlightened before the close of this debate. The hon. and learned member for York would better explain it to him; and in a manner which as a lawyer he would understand.

In his the Speaker's opinion no good government could exist without responsibility;—the laws of God and nature impose it. It was of universal and perpetual obligation; the British Constitution was made up of responsibility; it pervaded the whole system; all ranks and conditions of men were subject to it; from the peasant to the Sovereign there was, and must ever continue a deep responsibility. Without it, every barrier to despotic power would be broken down, and might would overcome right. He would suppose a case, but which he knew would not happen: if our gracious Queen should throw off the responsibility which she owes to the nation, and determine to govern by her own will, contrary to the laws and constitution; this would not long be endured. The same event would happen as did 150 years ago, and she would meet the same fate that befel James II.—The nation in its strength then applied a remedy; let gentlemen look to the time of Charles I. That monarch threw off responsibility and governed by arbitrary power; and the result was to arm the regicides of that period with power to destroy him. He contended that no honorable man, would wish to hold office divested of responsibility; however correct his conduct might be, suspicion would attach to him: the principle of honor revolted at the idea of irresponsibility; the soul of honor would surely die under it. The people of this Province could not forget what had happened; we have a recent instance of the most lamentable effects of irresponsible office. Whatever may now be resolved, you may rely on it Mr. Chairman, said the Speaker, that the people are prepared to receive the British Constitution; they will have responsible Government, notwithstanding any resolve that may now be made to the contrary. With reference to members of the Executive Council, who were also members of the House, the committee were told that they were by the despatch made completely subservient to the will of the Lieut. Governor, and must support his measures whether right or wrong. He would like to be informed where such an idea had originated; and by what perverted construction of the despatch, it could be even mentioned. Is it to be supposed, that an honest executive councillor would not tender honest advice; if he did not he would be guilty of the crime of perjury, as the terms of his oath required it of him; and whenever measures were proposed by the Lieut. Governor, which honest councillors considered to be prejudicial to the interests of the Province, honest men would tender to him honest, conscientious advice, and remonstrate against the measure.—And if after this, it were persisted in, they would then as men of honour, instantly resign; and a deep responsibility would then rest upon the Lieut. Governor; and by his own construction of it, which was undoubtedly correct, he would be under the necessity of leaving the administration of the government. He has distinctly stated in the circular memorandum which has been alluded to, that the improved constitution, imposed upon him the obligation to administer the government in accordance with the interest and wishes of the people. Much had been said with respect to the British Constitution; it had been compared by two hon. members to a triangle; this was by no means a happy figure of speech,—a pyramid would have been a fitter one. There was wisdom and justice in the construction of the despatch in the circular memorandum, and he heartily concurred in it.

The Speaker said that he had little more to say, the despatch was so plain, that he who runs may read, and he who reads may understand; and there was not a word in it, which as representatives of the people we were not bound to support. It conveyed a boon, and extended to the people of the colonies, the same privileges which are enjoyed in the parent state; and he would predict, that if this despatch was now rejected, the decision would give universal dissatisfaction to the country, and be viewed with astonishment by the surrounding colonies; and more especially by Her Majesty's Government. It seemed to imply something wrong, when opposition was made to such a document, which gives to us an improved order of things.—The Lieut. Governor is authorized to change his public servants, when they are found opposing that course of policy, which he is directed to pursue, or which he feels it his duty to pursue for the benefit of the colony. This celebrated des-

patch contains principles so purely British, and confirms that rational liberty which it is our birth-right to enjoy; that he should conclude by submitting a resolution to the following effect:

Resolved, as the opinion of this Committee, that the despatch from the Right Honorable Lord John Russell, dated 16th October, 1839, regarding the Rules hereafter to be observed, with respect to the Tenure of Public Offices, should be highly satisfactory to this House, affording, as it does, a most gratifying proof of a sincere desire on the part of Our Most Gracious Queen and Her Government, to infuse principles into the Administration of Colonial Affairs, strictly analogous to the principles of the British Constitution.

Hon. Mr. WELDON said, His Honor the Speaker had made a long speech, raising difficulties and objections which are altogether imaginary. He had carefully read the despatch, and could not discover any thing different in it from what the Home Government laid down in the despatch from Lord Glenelg to Sir F. B. Head, in 1836, and was responded to by the House of Assembly in this Province. All offices were held at the pleasure of the Crown, and he thought it a correct and proper principle, that the principal officers of the government in the Colony, should lend their cordial aid and co-operation in carrying out the views of the government; for as was justly observed by Lord Glenelg, if the measures of the government were permitted to be opposed or thwarted by their own officers—that government might be chargeable with acting with insincerity.—Therefore it was expected, that the members of the government, should support the views of the government; if they could not do so no honorable mind would wish to retain office upon other conditions.—That was the practice in England, and he thought it a good one in the Colonies; more particularly so, when it must be remembered, the expense which the mother country was constantly incurring for the Colonies.—Witness the millions for putting down slavery, and affording compensation to the planters—the large sums expended in Canada, to put down the rebellions and protect the country from pirates and brigands. The policy of the mother country, was to promote the welfare of the Colonies, and her policy should be one policy. When therefore we are protected by her power, defended by her best blood and treasure, actually fed by her bounty; the officers of the Colonial government should lend their aid, in carrying out the views of the government. In such light did he view the Despatch before the Committee.—Something had been said of "Responsible government;" by that was he to understand a ministry was intended to be formed in the Colonies? Such he thought was not suited for the colonies; we have not the same elements here fit to compose all the branches of the government as in England; but as the colonies advance in wealth and population, improvements may be suggested in colonial government; and may be reduced to operation. He did not think it necessary, to agitate abstract questions of right. All branches of our Provincial government work in harmony; and responsibility and accountability from the public officers, were fully secured.

In therefore carefully reviewing the Despatch he did not think any Resolution was at all required—nothing to call for any expression of opinion that the power of the House was increased or decreased thereby; he was rather inclined to go with the resolution, as proposed by the member for St. John. The resolution which His Honor the Speaker directed his remarks against, had not been seconded; nor did he believe the mover, the hon. member from Westmorland had any intention of pressing it. Upon the best consideration which he could give this subject, he thought the question of Responsible government as understood by some, was inapplicable to the Colonies. Lord Durham he thought only spoke of it, as applied to the Colonies under a federal union; he could see nothing in the despatch before the Committee altering the Colonial constitution as hitherto laid down. The attention of the Executive was called to the subject, to shew what was expected from public officers and advisors of the governor. As an Executive Councillor he had no hesitation in saying, that if he could not support the views of the government in regard to Colonial policy, he would at once resign.—He thought there was no divided policy: the happiness of the people and the welfare of the British Colonies was the desire of the Home Government; and he thought the House as it had done, would act accordingly. By so doing, they would best meet the wishes of the people of this loyal Colony, and the good opinion of mankind.

Mr. L. A. WILMOT said, that as the hon. member for St. John, Mr. Partelow, had withdrawn his series of Resolutions; and submitted one as an amendment to his honor the Speaker's, he Mr. W. would also withdraw his of the previous day; and before he sat down would propose another as a second amendment, which he thought would bring up the question. He could not refrain from trespassing again on the time of the Committee, as some very extraordinary arguments had been adduced by hon. members on the other side. It had been said, that "variety was the very spice of life, and gave it all its flavour;" and if the rule could with equal truth be applied to speeches, certainly his hon. friend from Westmorland, Mr. Wilson, had given them a highly flavoured speech, for he had gone into a great variety of subjects; and while he was denouncing the observations of other hon. members as unintelligible and irrelevant, he Mr. Wilson, had subjected himself to the like charge. That hon. member had urged, that as the various branches of business in the Province, professional and otherwise, were in a flourishing condition; no political changes were required, and no new systems or principles should be introduced into the government. If such an argument could avail at one time, it ought to be equally forcible and effective at another. Try it then on the eventful periods of '36 and '37. That hon. member then advocated reform, the House laboured for it—the country cried aloud for it, and it was obtained; and yet it might then have been said as now, that the learned professions, and the mercantile and other branches of business, were in a most thriving and prosperous condition. There was nothing therefore in such an argument. The hon. member from St. John, regretted that the despatch before the Committee, had been communicated to the House—that such a firebrand should have been thrown among them; as it was calculated to create difficulties where none before existed; but he said he had no such regrets; on the contrary he was glad that the despatch had been submitted; and he thought that His Excellency would not have discharged his duty to the Legislature or to his Sovereign, had he withheld it. Could His Excellency consistently with his high sense of duty, have hailed the despatch in question as conferring a new and improved constitution on the Colony, and not submit it to this branch of the government, whose members should at all times be made acquainted with the persons and duties of the other branches? Various important public functionaries in the Province had been informed of their responsibilities, and were the representatives of the people not to know of it? It was a pity forsooth that the communication had been transmitted to the House, and that such an apple of discord had been thrown into their midst, to interrupt their tranquillity. He was not in the least alarmed; but on the contrary thankful to His Excellency for the information. He should again call their attention to the despatch,

and particularly to the "Circular Memorandum" of His Excellency; for it was important for that House to know, what construction he had given to the despatch; as it must be deemed to be in accordance with the colonial policy of the Metropolitan Government, with which His Excellency was doubtless acquainted, and which he had been directed to pursue. Then looking at the first paragraph of the "memorandum," His Excellency there declared in language not to be misunderstood, that the principle of the despatch imposed upon him an increased responsibility, as well towards the Queen's Government as towards the inhabitants of the Province, over which he is appointed to preside, for the satisfactory administration of its affairs. Now this responsibility to the inhabitants of the Province, was not to them en masse; but to their legally constituted representatives in the Assembly; and therefore His Excellency had declared his increased responsibility to that House; and yet according to the views of some hon. members, that responsibility should have been created and have continued; and they not have been informed of it. Were the powers and the consequent responsibility of the Executive to be enlarged, and should they not know it?

He said he was satisfied that the House must approve of the course His Excellency had taken in laying the despatch before them. As he had said before so he repeated, that each branch should stand in such a relative position to the other two as to preserve an equilibrium, a constitutional balance of interests and powers; and he would lay it down as a maxim in our mixed form of government, that as the sphere of action of any one branch was enlarged, those of the other branches must undergo a corresponding extension: otherwise the balance would be destroyed; however if His Excellency was placed under increased responsibilities to the Crown and to the people; that House must necessarily have a more extended supervision over the Executive proceedings, in order to enforce those responsibilities. The hon. and learned member who preceded him, had put an extraordinary construction on the Despatch, quite at variance with that of His Excellency. He had considered the "public policy," mentioned by Lord John Russell as referring only to the policy of the Home Government; and attempted to draw a distinction between the home and the Provincial policy; but he would not hear of any such distinction; he would not admit of any such line of separation being drawn, the policy must be one and the same. The "public policy" of the local government was that of the metropolitan government, under whose instructions His Excellency was bound to act. And what "public" did Lord John Russell refer to? Was it to the Canadian public—or the Nova Scotian public—or the British public at home? No.—So far as the Despatch was intended for this Province—it referred exclusively to our own Provincial public and to none other; and the principle of the home government is to ascertain from those who are best qualified to judge in each Province, what policy will best conduce to the happiness and prosperity of the Provincial public, and to adopt such proceedings as shall attain those ends. This assertion would be borne out by referring to what had recently taken place in Upper Canada. The government did not insist upon requiring a union of the Provinces, and imposing the terms of this union despite the wishes and opinions of the local Legislature; no—they came before the Representatives of the people for their views and opinions; and the principle of the Despatch before the Committee, had been carried into practice there by the Governor General in removing those Executive officers, who were opposed to the wishes of the people's representatives; and thus the Union Bill comes as from the people themselves through their constitutional organs. And he sincerely hoped that Bill would yet become a law.

The greatest alarm was manifested by some hon. members at the idea of a responsible government; and the most extraordinary arguments had been used to shew the danger of such a government in the Colonies. Every argument was founded on the unwarranted assumption, that any increase of power on the part of the local Legislature would be absurd—would only be exercised for self destruction, and would not only involve the Colonies in internal difficulties but would lead to a severance of the connection with the Parent State. But he would ask what was the fair way of meeting the question? As well might it be argued, that mankind should not be allowed to go at large, or enjoy freedom of action, because they might inflict injuries on themselves and others. But if such an argument was tenable, it might with equal propriety be used against all the privileges and immunities enjoyed by every Legislative body in the Empire, for there was not a privilege or power enjoyed or exercised by any one of these bodies the abuse of which could not be readily supposed; and that forsooth, would be a sound argument against conferring them? No, no,—he could not admit of such a method of reasoning—it was wholly unsound. But they had been under a responsible government in this Province since 1837; they had seen the practical operation of the very principle which had lately given so much alarm, and they had seen that the Representatives of the people were not so bent on self-destruction as some supposed they would be. Look to the struggle in this Province in '36, and look to the result in '37; who brought about that great reform? who was instrumental in effecting that change in our system? Was it the Executive Government of that period? No, that reform was brought about by the Representatives of the people, the Executive was their adversary, the issue was joined, the cause was tried, the merits were heard, the verdict was given, and they were now reaping the fruits of the judgment, and enjoying the blessings of a Responsible Government; but where was the guarantee of its continuance? They had been told, that it would be time enough to discuss the question, whenever difficulties should hereafter arise; and if the amendment of the hon. member for St. John were passed, they would thereby in effect say, that if any just cause of complaint should arise however trivial and capable of local adjustment, they must cross the Atlantic and refer the matter to the Home Government. In many cases the remedy would be worse than the disease; and it might be preferable to submit to the abuse, rather than seek by such a mode for its removal.

It was somewhat surprising, that the hon. member for St. John, had grown so much wiser during one night. Yesterday he saw enough in the despatch to call for a series of Resolutions; and now he had withdrawn them all, and substituted one declaring that there was nothing in the despatch, affecting the Colonial Government. As that hon. member had withdrawn his, he (Mr. W.) had done so too; and he would substitute one instead expressive of similar views; for he could not concur in that part of the amendment, which pointed for every remedy to the Colonial Office. Would it be contended that if the Executive Council should pertinaciously oppose any important and reasonable measure, required by the unanimous voice of that House; that they should continue in office until the matter could be referred and adjudicated at Home? No, he thought when such a case arose, the remedy should be at hand. It had been said, that this House in '37 repudiated the claims of the Assembly of Upper Canada, that the Executive Council ought to be removable on an address of the Assembly; and that therefore, this House must, to act consistently, adhere to this Resolution. But how was that Resolution worded? (Mr. Partelow