

missioner of Crown Lands, was a fair and impartial judge, and never waited to ask or think when deciding between claimant A. or claimant B. whether one or other was a Reformer or a Conservative. In England the Lord Chancellor constantly disposes of matters that come from the courts below, and yet it had never once been suggested even in the stormiest times, when political sentiments ran highest, that that functionary ever forgot his justice, or had ever been swayed from the duty he owed to his God and his country by political feeling. If in England no such question had ever been raised, were we any worse in this country; was our code of morality lower; were we to be told that judges were not to read the public prints, were to close their eyes and their ears to everything political, to have no feeling, no sympathy? He felt sorry that the hon. member for East Toronto should, with his high standing in this House and at the Bar, have thought fit to commit himself to such an opinion as that the sanctity of the Bench was affected by the departure from it of a judge. Another point was that, in the administration of justice, the Attorney-General should be of as unsullied worth as one of the judges of the land. He occupies much the same position as the Lord Chancellor does in England; he recommends the appointment of all the magistrates, prosecutes all criminals, and naturally has great weight with the judges, and he (Mr. B.) felt sure that all the judges on the Bench felt gratified that one of their number had been chosen to fill the office of Attorney-General. He had considered that there should be a strong expression of the opinion of the House in reference to this matter, and therefore he had spoken thus fully. (Applause.) There was another subject which he was sorry to notice the Government had not seen their way to deal with this session. They had certainly given the House a large bill of fare, considering the very short time during which the Attorney-General had been at the head of the Government; but he was sorry to see that no notice had been taken of the subject of sheriffs' compensation, and he mentioned it in case it had not occurred to the First Minister. That hon. gentleman must himself know the value of the services of that important class of persons. There was not in the country a class of persons better entitled to consideration at the hands of the Government. Owing to the passage of the Insolvency law and to the general prosperity of the country, the salaries of these gentlemen had fallen to nearly nothing. Sheriffs who had formerly been in receipt of upwards of \$3,000 a year now only got about \$400 or \$500. Of course it was gratifying to know that the country was in such a prosperous condition, but they must remember that sheriffs were a necessary class, that they must be gentlemen of standing and credit; and he would ask how it was possible they should maintain anything like the position in society which their office demanded of them upon salaries so wretched? He knew one very respectable sheriff in this country—no doubt he was known also to the leader of the Government—against whose character not a word had been heard, who now was so poor that he could not keep a bailiff and hardly managed to keep a horse, and he hoped the Government would enquire into the matter and deal with it. He was very glad indeed that the Government had seen their way to dealing with the Surplus Fund. There was no question on which the people felt so strongly. Each municipality felt that there were many ways in which it could with benefit dispose of some portion of the money. No Government could exist beyond the session that did not dispose of that matter and the Municipal Loan Fund. He felt very glad that it had fallen to the lot of the present leader of Government to do so, although he himself would perhaps have been gladly relieved of the task. Before he sat down he wished to make a personal explanation. The member for South Grey, who, he was sorry to see, was not in his place during the course of his speech, had referred to an expression which he said he (Mr. Bethune) had used in the argument of one of the election cases in a court of law. It had been said that Mr. Bethune had used some terribly strong language in reference to exciting Orangemen against Catholics, and Catholics against Orangemen. A good deal had been said in the press about the matter, but he had not felt himself called upon, lawyer as he was, to defend any utterance he might have made in court, although he had been misrepresented. Although pressed at the time to make a correction of the misunderstanding, he allowed the matter to pass, because he knew that if any gentleman chose to

give prominence to the matter in the House, he would have an opportunity of correcting him there. The circumstances of the case were, as well as he could remember, and he had refreshed his memory by reading the reports on the subject, these:—In the election case under litigation the House would remember that the sitting member was charged with corrupt practices of various kinds, and for the first time it was charged as a corrupt practice, under our stringent law, that a person should, by inflammatory appeals to Orangemen in reference to the Scott resolutions, and by making inflammatory appeals to Catholics of a different character, endeavour to secure their respective votes. At the close of his, Mr. B's, address, the learned judge said to him "But you have not met Mr. Harrison's argument in reference to this man Skiffin." Skiffin was a man employed to canvass the Orangemen, he being an Orangeman and knowing their sentiments and feelings. He, Mr. B, then proceeded to argue that, according to our law it was not a corrupt practice. What they were then discussing was the dry question of law, and in argument he had said that it was quite legal to employ a party man to canvass those of his own class, and he cited English authorities to prove that statement. He had said that it was manifestly impossible to canvass an Orange body by sending to them a Roman Catholic, that it was necessary to send among them an Orangeman familiar with their minds and thoughts; and he applied the same reasoning to the case of Roman Catholics; but he now denied, most distinctly, that he ever argued the question as to whether it was right to inflame Roman Catholics and Orangemen against each other. The court was not the place to discuss anything but the legal view of the case, and that was all that he had done. He was not a member of any secret society. He was, perhaps, as good a Protestant as any Orangeman; but he had enough charity and feeling towards Catholics to prevent him from hurting their feelings in any way. In his own county he had had Dr. Masson perambulating the country telling his co-religionists that he (Mr. B.) was "a bloody Orangeman," while at the same time Mr. D'Arcy Boulton was equally busy informing his friends that he was "a bloody Papist." (Laughter.) He had never before this had an opportunity of giving contradiction to what had been said of him by the reporter, no doubt by error, and he now gave it an unqualified denial. (Cheers.)

On the 10th paragraph relating to the proposed establishment of an Inebriate Asylum,

Dr. CLARKE (North Norfolk) rejoiced to find that the Government were about to establish such an institution. With regard to the speech as a whole it embodied a number of important questions, and so far as the policy of the Government was disclosed he heartily approved of it. He regretted that more progress had not been made in the settlement of the division of the debt between Ontario and Quebec. He considered the proposition to increase the number of Normal Schools somewhat premature. He hoped to see an amendment to our Assessment laws, in connection with the consolidation of our municipal laws. Under the present law the assessor was frequently appointed by a party, and sometimes discharged his duties in the interest of the party that appointed him, and bogus votes were in this way made. He believed that the true cure for many of the evils connected with our assessments were the ballot and manhood suffrage, both of which measures he approved of. He would even go as far as to support universal suffrage. He trusted that there would not be any delay in settling the North-west boundaries. Delay lost us Maine and San Juan, and it was to be hoped we would not suffer similar disasters in connection with the North-west boundary. He again expressed his hearty approval of the proposition to establish an Inebriate Asylum, and he would also like to see a further step taken, and the traffic in intoxicating liquors abolished.

Dr. HANEY was glad to see that it was proposed to disburse the surplus and settle the Municipal Loan Fund indebtedness. He had promised his constituents that if the Government did not undertake to do justice to the old counties in this matter, he would not give them his support. He was told then by an opponent that no Government would dare to undertake that question; but he was glad to find that the Government were bold enough to grapple with it. He held a very high opinion of the late leader of the Government, Mr. Blake, but he rejoiced that he had been succeeded by so able a man, whose return to public life was a source of gratification to the whole country. He