

except in accordance with the by-laws of the body. There was no sort of foundation for the flimsy pretence that these bodies could not be incorporated under the general law. It was plain that the object of endeavouring to obtain special legislation was to keep up an agitation from which political advantage could be gained, by inducing the members of this society to imagine that they were being unjustly dealt with. The fact that there was no particular desire to obtain special Acts was, however, apparent from the circumstance that when the friends of hon. gentlemen were in power they had failed to obtain any such legislation. They were far more anxious to keep up the excitement than they were to have the Bills passed. If the only object of the Tory leaders among the Orange bodies was to have incorporation, they would have had it three years ago under the general Act, but they preferred to have a pretext for agitation. The Government had passed general Acts not only in regard to benevolent societies, but also in reference to joint-stock and other companies, and there had been valuable results from their policy in that respect. Under the general Acts incorporation could be obtained much more easily and expeditiously, and at much less expense than by application to this House. If special legislation could be prevented by general measures it should be prevented. The Government objected to these Bills because there was no necessity for them and because they broke in on a valuable and important policy of which the country had approved. The general Act was sufficient for the purpose, and he asked the House without hesitation to reject all special Bills for which general legislation was provided.

Mr. ROBINSON said that the Attorney-General had voted for the Bill when it was first brought in. Now he objected to it. He was joined to his idols and they might perhaps let him alone. If it had not been for the Orange Association there would have been more volunteers biting the dust at the time of the Fenian Raid. He alleged that the question would be brought up again and again until the Bills were passed. If hon. gentlemen opposite came into power he would press this measure. He had pressed it in the Grand Lodge when the other side were in power, but without success. He should like to see power given to the private lodges to incorporate without the interference of the Grand Lodge.

Mr. BARR protested against the action of the Committee in rejecting this Bill. The Orange order did not want any privileges that they would not grant to Roman Catholics. If the Conservative party had got into power, and did not grant this measure, they would turn them out. It was not intended to make this a political question, but the Orange order would stand on their rights. Orangemen had money in their pockets—(laughter)—and if they did not get their rights “200,000 Orangemen would know the reason why.” (Laughter.)

Mr. LAUDER said there was no reason why a large number of men associated for legal purposes should not be incorporated as they saw fit. The fact that no lodge had applied for incorporation showed that the general Act did not suit their organization. There were, however, political reasons, in and out of the House, which bound and fettered the Government, and prevented their passing this Bill. The Orangemen would continue to agitate, and they should agitate. He did not speak with any opposition to Roman Catholics, but the leader of the opposition to this Bill was a Catholic—the Commissioner of Public Works—whose action had done more to keep up this agitation than any other man. He thought this order was entitled to special incorporation. The reason for the passage of this general Act was in order to answer the Orangemen. The Order refused to get incorporation by a back door, but they claimed a right to obtain the Act in the light of day. This matter was not a political question. If it were, there were more gentlemen on the Opposition side that would be affected by it than on the Government side. He thought members should vote as they pleased, instead of being influenced by the opinion of the Government. Very many Orangemen wished the question to be an entirely non-political question. He supposed the motion would be defeated, but that would not end the matter, for the organization would not be put off. He regretted that the Attorney-General had made the question a political one, since he had expressed himself as in favour of the incorporation. Some other reasons than public ones were certainly influencing his mind. It was a high-headed

act for the Government to advise His Honour to reserve the Bill. The Attorney-General had said there was no need for discussion, but he had forgotten that there were many new members in the House whose opinions had a right to go to the country; the representatives of the people had a right to have their voices heard. He knew that influences that should not have been brought to bear upon the Attorney-General had been brought to bear upon him. Perhaps the Commissioner of Public Works, who had formerly made an attack upon this respectable body, which had created a strong feeling in Toronto and in the country, would not repeat the attack on this occasion. The whole responsibility for these annual recriminations upon this Bill fell upon the Attorney-General, for if his Government had advised the Lieutenant Governor to assent to the Bill the trouble would have been ended long ago. He hoped the Orangemen would press for their rights in a peaceable manner. He believed that no other influences than Roman Catholic influences had brought about the veto of the Bill. Many Roman Catholics were of the opinion that this annual strife should cease. He would never refuse to Roman Catholics the same privileges which he now asked for a Protestant body. Suppose the Orangemen were organized like the Evangelical Alliance, of which the Attorney-General was President, to resist the aggressions of Roman Catholicism, what would the Government say if they asked incorporation.

Mr. PATTERSON (Essex) said he had never thought until to night that the Tory party was a party of intolerance. There might have been some justification for the organization of such a society as the Orange one in Ireland some years back, when the Protestants were in the minority, but they do nothing but harm here, in stirring up religious animosities where otherwise they would not exist. The old time principles of the Tory party were far removed from the clap trap cries which were brought into this House and country by politicians who were incapable of forming a platform of their own, and so fell back upon these miserable religious ories. (Loud cheers.) This Bill was a direct slap in the face to every Roman Catholic whom the Tory party had elected; it was saying to them “We want you, but we must put our mark upon you.” (Hear, hear, and laughter.) The motion was calculated and he feared was intended to stir up religious animosities in this country. The Orange body were in the habit of boasting of their loyalty and their religion; in fact they seemed to regard peaceable quiet Protestants like himself as a lot of half Fenians. (Laughter.) He claimed to be as loyal a man as the greatest Grand Master of them all. (Laughter); and his experience had led him to believe that those who were continually shouting “Loyalty” and “Religion” had less of both these commodities than those who made less fuss about the matter. (Hear, hear.) The principles of such men as Canning, Peel, and Pitt were the genuine Tory principles of the past, and it was by a humble adherence to such principles as these that he (Mr. Patterson) rested his claim to be a member of the Tory party—not upon the support of such narrow, stupid, intolerant, and bigoted views as the Tories of this House were advancing. (Cheers.) He would like to know why nothing had been heard of these Orange Bills when Sir John Macdonald or Mr. Sandfield Macdonald were in power? (Hear, hear.) Just as soon as hon. gentlemen opposite got into the Treasury benches an attempt had been made, for purposes with which he for one would not identify himself (cheers), to appeal to religious prejudices and to arouse sectarian animosities by these yearly discussions on the Orange Bills. (Hear, hear.) The hon. member for East Grey had referred to the feeling which had been produced in Toronto by one of the speeches of the Commissioner of Public Works on this question, but that hon. gentleman would do well in making such references to recollect of the scandalous and riotous proceedings which had taken place on the streets of Toronto last fall. (Hear, hear.) Such speeches as the hon. member had just made were calculated, instead of allaying religious strife, to increase it and spread it throughout the whole land. It had been said that 200,000 loyal Protestants desired the special Bill to pass. If there were, he (Mr. Patterson) could say that there were 500,000 Protestants just as loyal as the others who did not desire such a Bill to become law. (Hear, hear.) He spoke advisedly in saying this, for he had taken special pains to ascertain the feeling of the Protestant community in general in regard to the matter. It had been said by the