

four provisions which any schoolboy could have got up. He had always been an earnest advocate of the Orange Bill. In canvassing for it with members on the Government side it had been cast up to him that members on the other side did not want the Bill, and he had almost begun to fear there was some truth in the statement. Last year the Orange members on the Opposition side held caucuses about the matter, and although he was one of the strongest supporters of the Bill he was not asked to one of them. (Hear, hear.) The reason for that was that he would have urged them to bring the Bill down straightly and take a vote upon it. He was glad to say that all the members who asserted that the Orangemen did not want the Bill sat on the Opposition side of the House, and he was rather afraid the hon. gentleman who had just sat down had a hand in that. (Cheers.) The Bill last year was put back two nights in order to allow an hon. member to write down to his constituency to ask to be relieved of his vote. An hon. gentleman had said he would have voted for the Bill if he had been present, but he had discovered after enquiry that a majority of the Orangemen in his constituency did not want it. He (Mr. Robinson) knew perhaps as much of the Orangemen in that constituency as the hon. gentleman did himself, and he had yet to find the man there who said he did not want the Bill. The hon. gentleman had, however, produced a letter, and that letter was from the Secretary of the Conservative Association of that constituency. Another member had said he had a letter stating that the Orangemen of his constituency did not want the Bill, but this session he had presented petitions from his constituents stating that they did want the Bill. No matter what the leaders—who, against the rules, desired to make this a political institution—might say, the rank and file did want the Bill, and would bring it forward year by year until it was carried. He believed they had a right to this Bill, and would stand by it. To show a little more of the trickery of these gentlemen opposite—(Cries of "Order")—he would withdraw the expression, but at the same time he believed it. (Cheers.) Last year when he put it to a gentleman in a good-natured way to support the Bill, he said he had a letter from a county Grand Master of his constituency saying that, as a Conservative expedient, he thought it was better for him to shirk the Bill. (Loud cheers and cries of "Name.") He did not want to give the name publicly, though he would mention the name to anyone privately. (Cries of "Name.")

Mr. MERRICK said the hon. gentleman ought to give the name if he made the charge.

Mr. ROBINSON said he was prepared to prove his charge. (Cries of "Name.") Well, he would give it. The gentleman was Mr. Baker. (Hear, hear.) He was sorry he had had to mention it. It was added to the statement that as a Conservative expedient he should shirk the vote, that the County Master in question would see that the rank and file of the Orangemen were all right before another election. (Laughter and cheers.) The Opposition had tried to make a cat's paw of this Bill, and but for the presence of other Orangemen in the House the hon. member who had brought it in did not care whether it passed or not.

Mr. MERRICK, amid cries of "Order," denied the statement.

Mr. ROBINSON said one gentleman had spoken in favour of this Bill for two years who had once voted against an Orangeman holding even the menial office of a policeman in the city of Toronto. The Orange Society could not incorporate under the present Bill. In Kingston they had to collect the rents of the stores under their hall through a third party and trust to his honour. The Premier was in favour of the principle of this Bill, but, instead of the tail following the head, he had to follow the tail. (Laughter.) He (Mr. Robinson) last night heard a strong Conservative and Orangeman, who was closely connected with one of the newspapers, say that they wanted the Bill kept in its present position till the next election so that they might go to the country on it. (Hear, hear.) The rank and file, however, desired to have the Bill passed.

Mr. MOWAT said no doubt the opinion expressed by his hon. friend from Kingston was correct, and that the sole object of those who promoted the Bill inside and outside the House was to promote a political purpose. It could be easily demonstrated that there was no foundation in the reasons given

by the mover of the resolution for the Orange body not being incorporated under the general Act. It was capable of demonstration that the Orange Society could be so incorporated without greater expense than under the special Bill. These were statements very different from those which had been made by the hon. gentleman, and by newspapers throughout the country; but those who had been promoting this movement had been very successful in creating a very incorrect impression in regard to these measures. They had deceived not only what his hon. friend from Kingston had termed the rank and file of the Orange societies, but others in regard to whom it must have been more difficult to accomplish the deception. He observed they had deceived his hon. friend who had just spoken, and a leading newspaper in this country for which he had a very high esteem and respect, and with which he was almost entirely in unison, had been also deceived, and had been led to suppose that the incorporation which this Bill proposed to grant at a cost of £20 or £30 could not be obtained under the General Act for less than \$80,000 or \$90,000. Not one word of this was correct, and he was prepared to establish it to any one who would understand what the truth really was. He (Mr. Mowat) had never pretended to have the horror of Orange Societies which some hon. gentlemen felt. He had always had a more kindly feeling in regard to them than other gentlemen inside the House and out of it had. Some principles were laid down in the Constitution of that body which commended themselves to every patriot and to every Protestant, and if he was to judge of the Orange societies by what he found in their Constitution it was impossible not to have a kindly feeling towards them. They declared that "the Loyal Orange Association is formed by persons desirous of supporting, to the utmost of their power, the principles and practice of the Christian religion, to maintain the laws and constitution of the country, afford assistance to distressed members of the Order, and otherwise promote such laudable and benevolent purposes as may tend to the due ordering of religion and Christian charity, and the supremacy of law, order, and constitutional freedom." Qualifications were laid down as indispensable for an Orangeman, which, if carried out, would render it impossible for him to be anything but a Christian man. The practices might not be in accordance with the principles of the Order, but in the view which he took of them he had been prepared to say that the practical advantages arising from incorporation were such as they were entitled to possess. Thus, in 1858, in the old Parliament of Canada, he had voted for their incorporation, and here, in the first session when he had the honour to occupy his present position, he had voted in the same way, though all his colleagues differed from him, and he still thought this body was entitled to incorporation if it desired it. The mode of incorporation, however, was another matter. If a general law had been passed under which the Orangemen could obtain incorporation as simply and as effectually as his hon. friend proposed by the special Act, and the incorporation in that way did not excite the hostile feelings which this special Act had excited, it was a fitting thing for the House to say to them that they should incorporate in that inoffensive manner. He thought it became them, as good subjects, as patriots, and as Christian men, to take that course rather than one which would excite an enormous amount of hostile feeling. (Hear, hear.) They all knew how these hostile feelings had arisen. They were the result of historical memories of the most painful kind. No one who had studied history now doubted that the Roman Catholics of Ireland had in former periods been the subjects of cruel and indefensible laws, while in other countries Protestants had had the same thing to complain of, but now civilization had advanced, and the true principles of toleration were understood, and in this country these things had entirely passed away. The laws of Ireland were now equal to all parties, but the memory of those bad and cruel days was present to a vast portion of the population, and in some way or another they connected those feelings to some extent with the Orange Association. He hoped these feelings would pass away. He believed to some extent they had passed away and that in the future they would entirely pass away, but he put it to the Orange bodies whether, if they could obtain their objects in a way which would be favourable to the cordiality which should exist between them and this large portion of