

Majesty's pleasure concerning it, than after being allowed to pass into a law here, it should have been erased from the statute books by the...

have become little better than the slaves in the West Indies before the emancipation, if the system of proscription had been continued much longer. Public officers, both in Kingston and Toronto, had been prevented from voting according to their consciences, from the fear of dismissal.

ing a single vote. Mr. Williams recapitulated the various charges which had been made against him, as well as the various positions of his address, which contained his justification and conclusions by observing, that as he believed he had never sworn, nor, in the future, he could be incoherently to alter the course which he had invariably pursued. He would give his hearty support to the address which had been brought forward by the gentleman on this side of the House, and should vote against the amendments.

Mr. J. S. Macdonald defended the measures of the late Ministry, and attributed the opposition to the Assessment Bill to interested parties in the country. The large salaries of the Heads of Departments were fixed by the late Ministers, but by their predecessors—a Government of which the Hon. Member for Megantic and the Hon. Attorney General West were Members (hear). He confessed that when he saw such men on the other side of the House as the Hon. Member for Simcoe and the Hon. Member for the Second Riding of York, he felt some misgivings as to the sincerity of the professions of Ministers to carry out Responsible Government. He had heard an argument from these Hon. gentlemen to convene a meeting to discuss the amendments of the late Ministry, and he would do so, because he considered it a Constitutional principle to be invoked. On general measures, however, he was prepared to support the Government if that character which would permit of his doing so conscientiously.

Mr. PIRKINER then rose; the hon. gentleman, who spoke in French, stated in effect that on the introduction of the Bill into the House, the practice must conform to the circumstances in which that country was placed, and that on no system could be introduced, without modifications. In England the election was by ballot, and the Government was elected by the people. In this country, the Government was elected by a few members of the House of Commons, who were elected by the people. There was also no strict comparison to be drawn between the House of Commons and the Executive Council. Then there was a great difference between the Constitution of the two countries. The Constitution of England was first framed up to 1688; that of Canada was written, and so well adapted to the circumstances which existed in this country, that they could not say there were two different systems. That Constitution had been introduced by the British Parliament, and it showed justly that they had a right to have the same Constitution which the people of England enjoyed; but in leaving the matter to their choice, was a minimal inconvenience resulting from the change. This then was their written law; these were their rights. If they thought they were not extensive enough they might ask for more, and he believed and hoped they would be accorded them. He had been asked why he would not consent to a post office, which he would not do. He believed the constitution required him to do so. He had a book with the consent of his constituents, which he had contained in him the confidence they had before. He demanded not to be judged without an examination of his acts;—this did not imply any desire to evade any right of the Government, but it was necessary to have the confidence, not only of the people, but also of the Chief of the Government. Now, this confidence the late Ministry had wanted, and it was the cause of their retirement; but himself and colleagues had it. The hon. gentleman concluded by saying that although he might have opponents, he did not think he had any enemies, and in spite of the sarcasms of the hon. member for the Fourth Riding of York, he denied that he was deserted by his patriots. Notwithstanding all the calumnies with which he had been assailed, he had not yet learned to regard himself as a renegade, or as one who would prostitute his principles for private interests. (Loud cries of "No, no.")

Mr. Moxley followed; he commenced by throwing aside the burthen of Responsible Government. That Government was dissolved in the declaration of the late speaker—that we had not the same principles. Ours was a modern Constitution, theirs ancient—the only difference the other existing in the hearts of those who enjoyed it. For those reasons they were told that the ignorant Canadians could not have Responsible Government as other countries could; that they were to be paid. But he would ask whether those who came from the other side of the Atlantic had not capacity enough to understand it?—had not the inhabitants of that Province shown, even to their prejudice, that they did understand it? The Government, it was said, had a different character from a King, but the relation was only different as to duties to his Sovereign, and these they had never called in question. Then they had a written Constitution, from which they could not depart; but their rights were more numerous; and it was not a greater duty to try to extend them. He said they had only the right to extend them, but they had the right to act. The late Ministers had been accused of abandoning their posts;—but the hon. member opposite had himself thanked them for that. They had not resigned without receiving the approval of some of those who blamed them. And was it their duty to have remained, and hold people that all was going on well, when their own consciences prompted a different course? The present Government was composed of such elements as could not be expected to do better. It was a Government of compromise; but it was a Government that had not been broken up by the late Ministry. He concluded by saying that he would support the address in answer to the address which had been presented, and would apply his vote in support of it, as he considered most risk related to promote the good of the country, and by so doing he thought he should best discharge his duty to his constituents.

Mr. Williams rose, he said, to vindicate himself from the accusations which had been cast upon him;—he related particularly those observations which had been made by the hon. Member for the First Riding of York, in the course of the late Ministry, which he addressed to the House, and in which that hon. Member had made allusions to an address published by him (Mr. Williams), in his constituents. That address, he said, was issued in consequence of certain papers emanating from the Reform Association, in which it was stated that [Mr. Williams] dared not present himself before his constituents.—The late representations made by the hon. Member had induced him again to become a Candidate, contrary to his former intention.

Mr. Williams moved that a humble Address be presented to His Excellency praying that he would be pleased to direct the proper officer to lay before...