

The CHAIRMAN—Explained that it had been the practice in Lower Canada to read Bills again paragraph by paragraph after it had passed through committee. But it was explained by another hon. member that it applied to Bills only, not to addresses. When the Bill is read a third time, to answer the hon. member Mr. Joliette could then make his objection or enter his protest.

The report of select committee on the rules and orders of the Council was then brought up with the explanation that in cases not provided for by them the usages of the imperial parliament would prevail.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

June 18, 10 A. M.

Mr. DALY moved for the issuing of a new writ for the election of a member to represent the Town of Kingston, in the place of Anthony Manahan, Esq. who has accepted the office of Collector of Customs for the Port of Toronto.

The Committee of the House (Mr. Durand in the Chair) on the Rules, reported progress.

The bill repealing an ordinance as to the inferior district of Gaspe, referred to a committee.

The Speaker read a letter from Mr. A. Manahan, vacating his seat for the town of Kingston, on his appointment by the Governor to be Collector of Customs for Toronto.

The Speaker issued his writ for a new election.

A motion by Mr. Thorburn relative to the contingencies of the last Session in U. Canada, was put and on explanation withdrawn.

By Mr. Smith for a Select Committee on the conduct of the Returning Officer for the County of Kent.

By Mr. Moffatt, pursuant to notice of yesterday—That the following Standing Committees be appointed—Of Privileges, Grievances, Education, Schools, Hospitals, Charities, Expiring Laws and Bills prepared to be engrossed, Agriculture, Private Bills, Public Accounts, Contingent Accounts, Courts of Justice, Trade, Public Accounts, Roads, Public Improvements, Public Lands, Seigneurial rights.

3 P. M.

The House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole upon the Speech of His Excellency.

Mr. MORRIS was called to the Chair of the Committee.

Mr. CAMERON rose for the purpose of presenting certain resolutions for the adoption of the Committee, upon which a reply to His Excellency's Speech should be founded. As some hon. members might desire further time to examine the resolutions, he would not press their adoption at the present moment, but would content himself with reading the same, and laying them upon the table, and leaving them for the consideration of hon. members, although he believed there would be nothing found in the resolutions which could be considered objectionable by any hon. member, as they were merely in substance an echo of the Speech. And he would now take the liberty of making a few remarks upon the present important crisis in our affairs. A new experiment is about to be made in the government of Canada, and one under the operation of which a great responsibility devolves upon the head of the government in this Province. The dry and parched soil is not more eager for the coming shower than are the people of this country for the establishment of the adminis-

tration of the government of this Province upon such a basis as will ensure its tranquillity, and consequently the extension of trade, and the happiness of all classes of Her Majesty's subjects. The announcement which His Excellency was pleased to make in his Speech from the throne, must be satisfactory to every lover of good government. It has long been expected that the officers of the government would have prepared a measure to be submitted to the House upon the very important and too much neglected subject of education.— Though there are formidable difficulties to be encountered—difficulties which have been found to be almost insurmountable in England. We need not, therefore, be surprised that these difficulties should in this Province have been overwhelming. There is as great a diversity of opinion upon the subject of education as upon religious subjects. This last, it is well known, has been the hobby which many members have amused themselves with riding in the House of Assembly for the last 20 years. He would proceed to read the resolutions, and to notice such points as were of most importance. In the commencement of His Excellency's Speech had been noticed the action of the government with respect to the case of McLeod, and he certainly thought that if we possessed a little of the patriotism of the ancient Romans, and of the simplicity of the Scotch Highlanders, a still more decisive course would have been pursued with reference to that question. There could be no difference of opinion upon the subject. Should McLeod be executed, he trusted there would be an unanimous demand for war. In the breast of Canadians—and he prided himself upon being a Canadian—he believed there existed a feeling of national pride which would not suffer an indignity to be offered to a subject of Her Majesty without demanding the fullest reparation, (hear, hear.) Another subject alluded to in His Excellency's Speech was that of an alteration in the Post Office Department, by which the postage upon letters sent by mail would be materially reduced. This is a very great boon. Since the reduction of the postage upon foreign letters had been made, he had witnessed the joy and gratification of many a poor man from the Mother Country upon receiving a letter, for which formerly he would have been obliged to pay five shillings, and the charge now being scarcely more than as many pence. Upon the subject of the loan of a million and a half from England, which His Excellency has brought under the notice of the House, many hon. members seemed disposed to treat it in a sneering manner. He (Mr. Cameron) for his own part was glad to find that our credit with England rested upon so good a footing. Men, women and money were what we need, (hear, hear,) and it is for want of these that this Province had become, as some hon. gentleman had designated it, like a girdled tree. If there were any sacrifice of principle required for the purpose of obtaining this loan, he, for one, would be against it; but he looked upon it that by obtaining the money, they should only be establishing the character of the country upon a foundation of perfect security and stability.— There was another subject which had created a great deal of anxiety, and that is the question of local self government. He (Mr. Cameron) had been given to understand that there might be a machinery put in motion by which the internal regulations of townships, regarding statute labor and other matters of consequence, may be better managed. He had no doubt such a Bill would be prepared by the House as would meet the views of hon. gentlemen. It was a subject of very considerable moment to the farmers throughout the country and one in which they feel as deep an interest as they could possibly do upon the subject of the responsibility of the ministry.

He (Mr. Cameron) would not trouble the house with any more remarks at the present moment, having noticed the leading features of the Speech, of which the resolutions were intended to embrace what might be designated an echo.

It was then suggested by Mr. Neilson that the committee should rise and the resolutions be allowed to be printed.

Col. PRINCE observed that as the resolutions were nothing more than a simple acquiescence in the principal points contained in the Speech, he thought there was very little necessary to be printed. The principles embraced in the resolutions were as easy to be understood as it was impossible to construe them. It had hitherto been the practice, courtesy to the head of the government, to comply to the speech from the Throne as extensively as possible. He was persuaded that every hon. member was fully prepared to give his vote in favor of the adoption of the resolutions; if not, it would be as easy to state the objections as to postpone the matter to a future day, and as they had fixed this evening for consideration of the subject, they should proceed forward manfully (hear, hear,) and discuss the question, and give their votes upon it. There was no difficulty in the case—it was an acquiescence in the Speech, such as His Excellency had reason to expect from the House.

Mr. HINCKS said that he for one was not that so much delay should be considered necessary. He would have been prepared to give much earlier period to go into the discussion. He thought the more correct course would have been for the gentlemen on the Treasury benches to have been prepared with an answer to the Speech, as was invariably the case in England. As several hon. gentlemen seemed desirous that the resolutions should be laid upon the table, that hon. members should have an opportunity of examining them, he would recommend the hon. member to do that course, that the House should not be surprised, and forced into a vote without due consideration.

Mr. ATTORNEY GENERAL OGDEN said that the parliamentary course in England to which the hon. gentleman had adverted was for the hon. gentleman to be prepared with an answer to the Speech from the throne. In the hon. gentleman was perfectly correct. For one, as long as he had the honor of a seat in that House, would defer to the wishes of any hon. member who might desire time for consideration upon any subject; and he would therefore, his hon. and learned friend Mr. Essex (Col. Prince) would not divide the House upon the adoption of the resolutions on that day, but would permit them to be agreeable in compliance with the wishes of the members.

Mr. BUCHANAN would beg to call upon gentlemen who occupied the Treasury benches to state for the information of that House the principles upon which it was intended that the government should be carried on. The members of the Executive Government should acknowledge their responsibility to the public opinion, as expressed by a majority in this House, for the advice which they give to the head of the government, so far as not to remain connected with an administration upon which a vote of want of confidence has been given in the Assembly, unless in case of an immediate dissolution of Parliament? Will the Ministry in this Province recognize the principle of retaining office when they cannot maintain a majority in the House of Assembly? In relation to the case of McLeod, which allusion has been made, it would be better that the British government should be swamped altogether, than that they should suffer the smallest injury to be done to an individual.

Mr. ATTORNEY GENERAL OGDEN said that he was very happy to have the opportunity of entering into an explanation of those resolutions which would guide the House, and those whose duty it was to support the government. And in the first place, for the information of the House, he would say that he had not so long only as he could give support to those measures of the government which he submitted to that House, but he would continue to hold office, (hear, hear.) He was understood as explaining to every one of his colleagues that they were such as determined upon any other reference to any other subject, for they had felt it to be the duty of the country, in the present crisis, to understand each other. He would say that he entertained no views which he entertained of His Excellency. He was Governor as having a mission to the people, as being the representative of the Majesty's government, and another Country for the faithful discharge of his station; and he cannot avoid by saying that he would not give any advice of this man or of that man upon it as a necessary doctrine that where there shall power be also, for the idea that one man shall be another and another be liable for. In a matter of this kind that hon. members would do well to refer to notes, that would be the greater correctness. Mr. Attorney General read from Lord Glenelg's Despatch, dated 5th Decr. 1847, without entering on the one side into a discussion of those resolutions to which my attention is directed on the other hand it is enough for me to observe that the administration of Canada is by no means the result of a sufficient practical knowledge of a sufficient practical knowledge of His Majesty and to Parliament. Canada is at all times in a state of transition for his official acts. This is not merely nominal but it is the most lively interest of his Canadian subjects, to devote a patient and laborious representations which they make, either through their representatives, is proved not only of the correspondence of his office but by the despatches addressing you. That I am not disposed to receive the representations of our constituents is attested by the labors which have been a matter of Commons during the session into matters relating to the duty of the Legislature of Upper Canada, to vindicate to the Parliament every man's right. In the event of any address to his Majesty for your official conduct, you must be able to make the best possible claim to a fair trial; but the presumptions which are formed in your behalf, made a close examination of the real facts of each case may be brought under the responsibility to his Majesty.