

returned as a proof of this, though three candidates exhibited themselves for three successive days to the public, they could scarcely induce any person to leave home for the mere purpose of voting. He often pitied their deserted condition. Mr. Nelson had much more votes than the other two. He did not put the expense of Elections in comparison with the rights of the people—those Members who felt they did their duty might go forward again—and he thought the sooner those who did not were got rid of the better. He insisted on the propriety of the United States under similar circumstances, and concluded by saying that though he wished to go much further than the present measure, yet sooner than lose this bill, he was content it should remain as it was, and hoped the time would soon arrive when more extensive measures might be carried.

Mr. Brecken said he would give the measure his decided support, he never got office since his election, those he held he had before. He always endeavoured to do his duty zealously—but he was not quite sure his conduct met universal approbation. A gentleman (Mr. Willock) had last year given notice of a bill to enable Members to resign their seats. If it had passed, and he found the majority of his constituents were dissatisfied with him, he would resign the trust they confided to him—in the absence of any law to that purpose, he wished to put it frequently in their power to express their opinions of their representatives. As to copying from England, he deprecated the idea, farther than constitutionally they were bound to do, they would endeavour to act independently and perhaps become a precedent for England herself. He felt convinced that Lord John Russell had taken their Election Bill as a model for his, on the Reform question, the principles were exactly the same as far as circumstances allowed. He would therefore support the amendment.

The Committee then divided on the amendment (that the Bill be gone into clause by clause) as follows:—

YEAS.—Messrs. Brecken, Owen, Cooper, J. S. Macdonald, Brennan, Dalrymple, Green, Willock.

NAYS.—Messrs. Speaker, Pope, Hyndman, Binns, McNeil, Compton, Nelson.

The Committee was occupied the remainder of the day discussing the clauses.

REPORTED FOR THE BRITISH AMERICAN.

Tuesday, Feb. 6.

House in Committee, on the St. Andrew's College Incorporation Bill, (Mr. Brennan in the chair.) On filling up the blank for the amount of the annual income of Property to be held by the Trustees, some gentleman proposed that it should be filled up with 2000*l*. Mr. Pope said that he thought 500*l*. would be sufficient—he did not like to see institutions of the kind become too rich, as, under such circumstances it might exercise a control in the country that could not be wished for, nor contemplated by the Act. The motion however, not being seconded, the blank was filled up with 2000*l*. On the clause pointing out the mode of Election of Trustees in future, and their qualification, Mr. Pope said that he thought there should be a proviso, disqualifying any person from being a member of the corporation, except

subjects of His Majesty; he had no doubt of the good intention of the present Trustees, but there was no knowing that strangers inimical to the Government would not be elected hereafter. He therefore proposed "that no person should be eligible to become a member of the said corporation, until he should have first taken the oath of allegiance to His Majesty. He saw such a proviso in an act of incorporation in Lower Canada, which went to incorporate the Trustees of a Presbyterian Church,—and he saw no reason why the like provision should not be inserted in the present bill.

Mr. Binns said that it was before the Emancipation, when the Law in Canada referred to was passed, and that the Law as it at present stands, prevents an *Alien* from holding real estate in any part of His Majesty's dominions. There were two acts of Incorporation passed last session in this House without any qualification of the kind being introduced, and he thought any thing of that nature in the present bill would be making an odious distinction.—Messrs. Dalrymple, Owen, Willock, Cody, Green and Brecken, followed Mr. Binns in the same liberal strain. The Chairman (Mr. Brennan,) and Mr. Hugh Macdonald, expressed themselves perfectly satisfied with the proviso introduced by Mr. Pope, stating at the same time that they should be sorry to see any person connected with the institution, who would refuse to take the oath of allegiance to His Majesty. Mr. Pope's proviso, however, not being seconded, was withdrawn. After a few remarks from Mr. Owen, expressive of his approbation of the Board, and liberal principals upon which the Bill was founded; and of the very correct state in which it was introduced, the Bill was reported, agreed to, and ordered to be engrossed.

After some other routine business the House adjourned.

Wednesday.—The Herring Fishery Bill was reported, agreed to, and ordered to be engrossed. The house went in Committee, on the Bill to establish the standard of weights and measures, and to compel masters of vessels employed in the transportation of agricultural produce, to keep proper stamped measures on board to measure the same. The Committee rose and reported Progress in order to receive a message from the Council. After some other routine business, the House went into Committee on the *Reform or Quadrennial* Parliament Bill. This excited a most lively interest as well amongst the spectators as the honourable Members who shared in the debate. Mr. Binns spoke at great length against the measure, and read several paragraphs from the Parliamentary History in the library of the house, as well as from "Blackstone" and other comment-

ators; and was warmly supported by Mr. Speaker and Mr. Pope. On the other side the Bill was ably supported by Messrs. Dalrymple, Owen, Brennan, Brecken, Hugh Mac Donald and John Small Macdonald. On a division in Committee, "that the Chairman report the Bill disagreed to." There appeared for the motion, Messrs. Speaker, Pope, Hyndman, Willock, R. McNeil, Nelson, Angus McDonald, Compton, Binns; and against it, Messrs. Dalrymple, Owen, Brennan, Brecken, Cooper, Hugh Mac Donald, John Small Mac Donald and Green, being one of a majority in favor of the motion, accordingly the Speaker took the chair, and on the question being put that the report of the Committee be received, it was moved in amendment "that the report of the Committee be not received, but that the bill be engrossed." This was a case of peculiar interest, as Mr. Cody who had no vote on the former division [being Chairman,] voted in favor of the Bill being engrossed, which added one to the former minority, and Mr. Speaking having no vote on the present motion, it was carried by a majority of one.

Here again ensued a spirited debate as to the regularity of the last mode of proceeding with regard to the Bill, Messrs. Binns, Nelson and Pope, insisting that it was irregular and contrary to Parliamentary usage to adopt such a course of having the bill engrossed without it having first passed clause by clause in Committee, and agreed to, while Messrs. Owen, Brecken, Brennan, Dalrymple, &c. maintained that it was quite competent for the House to adopt such a proceeding. That in many instances Bills have been sent down from the Lords and passed in the House of Commons without being committed at all—that the present bill had been in Committee twice; that it was now before the House, and that it was in the power of the House to make any order they thought proper on it. This was carried, and the Bill ordered to be engrossed. Mr. Pope used strong language towards the majority for the manner in which they forced the measure through the House. He was immediately called on for explanation by Messrs. Owen, Brennan and Brecken, who considered themselves insulted by the expressions made use of. Then the Gallery was cleared, it being a case of privilege, and after the necessary explanation, the house adjourned at about half past seven o'clock.

Thursday, Feb. 7.

Very little business was transacted this day, as Mr. Speaker, Mr. Owen, Mr. Pope, Mr. Green, and many of the rest of the Members went to the examination of the Charlotte-Town Grammar School, which took place at two o'clock. After the House resumed, a Message was received from His Excellency the Lieutenant