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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

THURSDAY, April 13.

Pursuant to motion, the House resolved itself into a Committee of the whole, to take into consideration the Message of the House of Assembly and the Address to Her Majesty accompanying the same, on the State of the Colony, (this measure originated with the hon. Mr. Palmer, in the Committee of the Assembly.—(See the *Colonial Herald*, March 25th.)

The Hon. Mr. Hensley took the Chair.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL said that the object of the Resolutions before the Committee should have his unqualified support. As a native of this Colony, where he had spent the best part of his days, and where, in all human probability, he would end them, no member of the Committee felt more sympathy for the distressed situation of the Tenantry of the Island than he did, and none knew better than himself that the Resolutions stated the truth, and nothing but the truth, in declaring the impossibility that existed of the payment, by the tenantry, of their rents in specie. He was rejoiced to find that the majority of the present House of Assembly had the courage and honesty to disabuse the minds of the Tenantry on the subject of that *ignis fatuus* "Escheat," which the language used in these Resolutions would most assuredly do—a subject which had been artfully and wickedly made use of for so many years to serve the selfish ends and views of certain individuals, to the ruin of hundreds, otherwise well disposed tenants, who by credulously believing these agitators had been induced to withhold the payment of their rents, and now found themselves overwhelmed by an amount of arrears which they could never liquidate, and which it would be in vain for them to struggle against. He however hoped, that the Proprietors generally would cordially respond to the united opinion of both branches of the Legislature, conveyed as it could only be conveyed, through the medium of the Imperial Government, and in language to which the most fastidious supporter of vested rights amongst them could not object, and grant the boons now, he trusted, about to be asked of them on behalf of the distressed tenantry. The resolutions so forcibly and truly represented the inability of the tenantry to meet the demands of their landlords, that he considered it would only be trespassing upon the time of the Committee further to expatiate on this part of them; but there were introduced into them some words on which, as a member of that Board,—as an ardent admirer of the constitution under which he had the privilege to live,—he felt bound to make a few remarks. The Committee would observe that the Resolutions stated the arrears due by the tenantry had been increased by the costs of Warrants of Attorney taken from them, and by the costs of judgments entered up on such Warrants of Attorney. This he did not believe to be true, and imagined that the framers of the Resolutions had, inadvertently, allowed this statement to appear, misled by the report that such was the fact, and which report had been industriously circulated with the view of blasting the character of his honourable and learned friend the Solicitor General in this community, and on which report the House of Assembly had unconstitutionally, he must say, appointed a Committee to enquire into the conduct of his hon. friend *in his private capacity as a land agent*. He asserted, without fear of contradiction, that in granting this Committee for such a purpose, the Assembly had widely erred in the estimation of its powers. With as much right, it might have granted a Committee to enquire whether one or more of the Merchants of Charlottetown had dealt harshly with his or their debtors in the collection of just debts. He felt obliged to reprobate the proceedings as unjust, illegal and unconstitutional in its very inception; was it just that this *ex-parte* tribunal should be instituted for such a purpose, before which the accused had no opportunity afforded him of being heard? was it right that his hon. friend should thus be held up to the world as a person so unjust, so wickedly and avariciously grasping, that the Representatives of the people deemed the case one so flagrant as to warrant them in overstepping their powers and in granting this Committee of enquiry *into his conduct as a land agent*? Why the mere granting the Committee by such a body must undoubtedly have had the effect, at the very outset, of stamping an unfavourable impression upon the minds of the public against him, to say nothing of the risk he afterwards ran, of having all his words and actions perverted by judges, some of whom, there could be no doubt, had previously pre-judged him. Thus far he had endeavoured to confine his observations to the illegality of the proceedings adopted against his hon. friend, but as a gentleman whom he had known intimately from his first arrival in this Colony, and of whose worth, honor and integrity he had the highest opinion, he had never doubted but that this *ex parte* trial would redound to his credit; the event justified the opinion he entertained of him: the character of his hon. friend shone with increased lustre after undergoing the ordeal to which it had been subjected; most signally had the malice of his enemies been defeated, after hunting up witnesses from all corners of the Colony, this unconstitutional Committee made no report on the point referred to them, thereby evidencing their inability to sustain one iota of the slanderous charges made against his hon. friend, though at the same time, by such silence, evincing a total want of that candour and sense of justice which ought more especially to govern men filling the high and responsible stations of Representatives of the people, and which ought to have influenced them to declare the truth, however repugnant that truth might have been to their secret wishes and feelings. The majority of the Assembly had however done his hon. friend justice in this respect, and illegal and unconstitutional as the proceeding in fact was, in one sense it would serve him; it would disabuse the minds of those persons who not knowing his hon. friend as he did, may have credulously believed any portion of the slanders propagated against him, slanders which he regretted to say had gone the rounds of the public press in this Colony. He felt that he had spoken warmly on this occasion, he trusted not too warmly, for, in his opinion, the course adopted by the Assembly was one that called for a strong expression of opinion upon it, from all the members of the Committee, and should be honestly and firmly reprobated at once. What, he should like to know, was to prevent that board from constituting a Committee of Inquiry on the private conduct of any member of the Assembly, that might in any way make himself obnoxious to them? where was the line to be drawn.—He had a high respect for the Assembly, respected its powers and its privileges, and would he thought be one of the last men in the Colony to wish to see them curtailed, or to wish to see it lowered as a Body in the estimation of the public; but he should have taken shame to himself, had he not raised his voice in warning on this occasion. The introduction of the assertion in the resolutions, that the embarrassments of the Tenantry had been increased by the exaction of warrants of Attorney from them, and by the costs of entering up judgments thereon, had afforded him the opportunity of making these remarks; the assertion however, was in fact unfounded; he believed that his hon. friend had never exacted one farthing from the Tenantry on the estates in his charge for drawing warrants of Attorney or bonds, and that not more than four or five judgments had been entered up on those taken by him—and of that number he believed two had been entered up, in his absence from the Colony. He entertained no doubt that the Assembly would agree to strike out this part of the resolutions, for it only tended to weaken a good cause, when assertions were made which could not be borne out by proof, and with this alteration, he hoped the Committee would unanimously agree to them, and report to the House in favour of acceding to the request of the Assembly, to join with them in the address to Her Majesty for her gracious mediation with the Proprietors on behalf of their suffering Tenantry.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL rising, said that after the kind and handsome manner in which he had been alluded to by his honorable and learned friend, the Attorney General, he could not remain longer silent; but the subject they were upon, "the State of the Colony," was one of such importance, that it claimed his attention before any thing of a personal nature. The very name of the Committee—a Committee on the State of the Colony—naturally led them to take a retrospective view of the political events of the last few years; and indeed, it was no pleasing retrospect which they had to contemplate. They beheld a large portion of the people, the dupes of a few artful, designing and cunning men, who, to serve their own base ends, had endeavored to make them disregard their just and legal obligations, to withhold the payment of their dues; and the consequence was, that those who, in an evil hour, had listened to their counsels and had suffered themselves to be misled, were now encumbered with a load of debt which they found difficult to discharge—an inconvenience not experienced by their advisers, who had always taken care of their own safety by keeping their own rents paid up. By the active machinations of this band of impostors, by holding out hopes of free land to the people—hopes which those who raised them well knew to be delusive, and by making them believe that if they were returned to the Assembly, they would realize their promises.—the majority of the other House had for several years past been composed of those whose object and interest it was to promote measures not tending to ameliorate the condition of the people and advance the prosperity of the country, but wild, visionary and unconstitutional schemes which they well knew would never receive the assent of *this* House (the Council) nor of the Government at home, but which well answered the object of those who framed them, which was, not that they might pass, but that their rejection might afford new elements for agitation. He was not unaware that the clique had lately received an accession of strength from another country, from a land whose recent history, while it too fatally displayed the dreadful consequences of a people's listening to the Demagogue with too ready an ear, presented an instructive lesson of the way in which that demagogue, in the hour of need, will desert those whom, by his pernicious advice, he has misled—a country whose melancholy tale told how possible it is to find men base enough to stir up people to insurrection, and then like the incendiary flying from his midnight work, lest the flame which his torch had lighted up, should lead to his detection, vanish from the ranks which their secret devices had called together, very probably mingling with those of their opponents, and by loud protestations of pretended loyalty, endeavoring to hide their treason. They were well aware that from Canada—recently pregnant with examples such as this—an individual had come, who had joined the agitating band to which he had alluded, an individual who, from his arrival here to the present hour, had set himself up against every constituted authority in the land—a man who breathed sedition, whose every writing was pernicious, and whose every speech tended to incite the people to insurrection. He had no doubt he was an instrument well fitted for the task. He did not mean to say he had joined the ranks of the rebels there; but looking at his conduct since he had been here, and the place from whence he came, and the opportunities he had had of obtaining a proficiency, who could doubt but that he was well versed in the secret arts by which a people may be rendered discontented, and sedition successfully sown among them? but he hoped that for him, and such as him, this Island would prove but a temporary abode. He trusted that it would be used only as the resting place in the ocean on which, like birds of passage, they but lighted in their way to some more southern clime. The air hallowed by the true spirit of the British Constitution was too pure for them. Let them pass on to some southern republic, and there, amid the ever-agitated waves of a stormy and ungovernable democracy, they might find spirits congenial with their own, and there let them float the ark of their regeneration if they would; but let them not remain here shedding abroad their noxious influences and destroying the peace of the country, by endeavoring to incite the people to insurrection. The people could never expect any good from having such men their representatives, because they must see that those who had the power to advance their interests must look on every thing they did with distrust—every thing they attempted was absurd, and every measure they proposed impracticable. Time after time had that House (the Council) rejected these Bills, not that they were not willing to go all constitutional lengths to serve them, but because their measures were such, as not only could not receive the assent of right thinking men, but if assented to, would absolutely destroy the title of the tenantry themselves. He was glad to perceive, however, that the delusion had in part passed away, and that at length a House had been formed, whose majority had honesty enough to speak the truth, who had moral courage enough, in the midst of popular clamor and excitement, instigated by those who had so long misled the country, to tell the people that their leases could not be treated as void, that their rents must be paid, and that they had no power to dictate to the proprietors the terms on which they should part with their land—who, while they went as far as they could go, stopped, just when to proceed further would have been to have overstepped the boundaries between right and wrong. He was happy that, at last, a measure had been proposed to which he, and, he trusted, that House, would give its unanimous concurrence.—The Resolution proposed to request the proprietors to take their Rents in produce: should this be consented to, it would be a great boon to the tenantry. It was a reasonable request, and he felt convinced it would be acceded to. He had as good an opportunity as most men of knowing the condition of the country, which is now, in common with most others, overshadowed by that dark cloud of commercial embarrassment which seems to overhang the world; and he did not think the circulating medium of the Island sufficient to pay their rents in money. He thought it was necessary, and would tend to the good of both landlord and tenant, if a general system of taking produce for rents was introduced; but let them not deceive themselves, by supposing that this would be a sort of getting rid of their rents altogether. The rents were reserved at a rate expected to be received in cash, and if produce was taken, they must not expect to be allowed the high rates which country dealers who paid in trade would give. The cash price was all they must expect—again, it was only grain that could be generally taken; the potato was too expensive to transport, too liable to decay and too uncertain in its price to be depended upon. The time of receiving them too were a general system adopted, might be arranged much more beneficially for the tenants than it now was: it was now generally taken in the autumn, when it was inconvenient to get it ready and the roads were bad. Instead of this, it would be much more convenient to say to the tenants—you may pay in grain until the first of March; after that none will be received, and he who has not then paid, must pay in money. As to giving up the back rents, he went with that part of the Resolution, because he understood it did not ask that they should be generally given up, but only in cases where the good conduct and circumstances of a poor but industrious man might be held to entitle him to that indulgence. Any thing like a general system of giving up the back rents would be unwise, because it tended to make those who have paid up discontented. They at once say, and with reason, that they are not fairly dealt with, because the man who did not pay is put on a better footing than those who did; besides, the greater portion of the arrears were occasioned, not because the people were not able to pay, but because they had listened to those who told them not to pay, and they would get their lands escheated—the giving up therefore, would be a direct premium upon agitation; still there are many, whose all would not pay their arrears; 'twas better to err on the side of leniency than otherwise, and a just discrimination in remitting some, would be beneficial both to landlord and tenant. Should the proprietors accede to the requests contained in the resolutions, he was well aware, it would not satisfy the agitators; their game was to keep up agitation. Had they had the majority in the other House, they would have passed the Resolution fixing the price at which produce should be taken; not that they would have thought that any thing so unjust to both parties would have been assented to, but because it would have been rejected in that shape, and therefore answered their purpose. The majority of the present House had shewn themselves honest in dissipating the delusive hopes that former houses had raised, and if their request were granted, they would, in one session, have accomplished more good for the tenantry of this Island than those who deluded them had done in years, or ever would have effected. There was, however, one part of the Resolutions, which stated that the arrears of rent were materially increased by bonds and judgments to secure the same; this statement was untrue. He did not think there were twenty judgments standing for rent in the whole Island, and he should move that it be struck out; and in doing so, it naturally led him to make some observations on a subject personally affecting himself,—on a certain proceeding of a Committee of the other House, which his hon. and learned friend, the Attorney General, had rightly designated as a most arbitrary and unconstitutional proceeding. It was well known that a Committee of the other House, the majority of which (com.) was composed of the agitating band to which he had alluded, had sat for the last two or three weeks, for the purpose of accusing and convicting him; it was necessary for these gentry to screen themselves, by alleging some plausible pretext for the seditious movement which they had set a-going in the country. The grossest falsehoods, coupled with the most absurd charges, had been freely launched against him by certain members of the other House, and bruited abroad through the press, as reports of their speeches, for that express purpose, of injuring his reputation and blasting his character. He had been held up as a man of the most heartless cruelty—as a grinding avaricious man—who, for the purpose of putting fees in his own pocket, had taken bonds and warrants from the tenantry, entered up judgment and saddled them with enormous costs. He had heard all this. He had read the reports of their speeches, and had witnessed the wide-spreading calumnies by which they had endeavored to overwhelm him, and yet he had remained passive. He had so great a contempt for those from whom they emanated, that, to tell the truth, he felt very little concern about it. Some men would perhaps at once have answered and exposed their falsehoods in the public prints, but he was one of those who held, that a man's character depended on the general tenor of his life and actions—that this formed the standard, from which neither the voice of the libeller nor the pen of the scribbler, though they might cast a temporary shadow, could ever effectually lower him; but when he reflected that in the present instance, those charges had appeared to come, propped up and sustained by the authority of the other Branch of the Legislature, he must own that he felt happy, that at last an opportunity was accidentally afforded him, to make some observations upon that proceeding. A Member of the other House had stated, that the meeting at New London arose from his (the Sol. General) having recently issued 70 or 80 writs against the tenantry. He would only say that this assertion was false, and he had good reason for believing that that individual knew it to be so at the time he made it. Not one writ had been issued—not one judgment entered up—not one execution issued—and the only proceeding taken against the tenants at New London, on the estates under his management, was six distraints!—the whole rent levied for under these distraints only amounting to £18 17s. 6d. These were made for rents due for the last year, which he was determined to make them pay, because he was convinced that no man who allowed them to get further in arrear was really their friend. Those people at New London, of all others had no reason to complain; they had had cattle and produce taken for their back rents—that these, like every thing else, had been low, was a circumstance which in common with every person else he regretted; but not one single cargo had ever realized what the tenants had been allowed for it—that they were unfortunately in arrear was not his fault. He had taken many bonds and warrants from the tenantry for these back rents, and he would state the reason which induced him to do so. When he first came here, he was employed as an attorney, to sue several persons for arrears on the estates which were now under his management. He found that from the numerous assignments, the pleadings were long, and the costs of obtaining judgment would be £8 or £10. He saw this would be equally injurious to landlord and tenant. When the estate was put under his charge, he had to settle accounts and strike balances with many hundreds of tenants. He told them they must give him their bonds and warrants for their respective balances, and the effect would be, that, if the worst came to the worst, and they to be sued, the costs of a judgment on the bond would be only three pounds: if sued without it, would be £8 or £10. He took their bonds and warrants, payable by instalments, at two, three, four and five years, without interest. He was entitled to a fee on each of these bonds and warrants; but the fact was—a fact which must have been known to his accusers—that he had not charged the tenants a farthing for them—that by giving them, they had got two, three, four and five years to pay what might have been taken at any moment, and this indulgence they had got without one shilling of expense being put upon them. He had said, that he did not think he had received upwards of £30 for costs on these bonds, but on looking over his books he found that he had been far beyond the mark. On all the hundreds of bonds and warrants which he had taken, only four judgments had been entered up, and two of these had been during his absence from the Island. The costs on these, instead of £30, would not exceed £10; if they had been £200 or £300, they could not have been much, on so extensive an estate. Notwithstanding this, he had been charged with putting the tenantry to enormous costs. He would ask any one whether the course which he had pursued was not the one which, even if the tenant had to be proceeded against, would throw the least possible expense upon him; and whether his doing this without charge, did not entitle him to their thanks rather than their censures. The case of a man named Haney had also been brought forward by a certain individual of escheating notoriety in the other House, and it had been stated that his conduct to this man had been most cruel. If ever a case had been wilfully perverted, this case had been. In 1840, he found Haney, a squatter, on Lot 45, where he had been 6 or 7 years. He offered him a lease for 999 years—two years at 6d., one year at 9d., and then at a shilling sterling, for the residue of the time; but he was a disciple of the escheat party, and though all his neighbors gladly took theirs, he declined: it could hardly be supposed that he would be allowed to keep the land for nothing. An action of ejectment was commenced, and judgment obtained. He was offered his lease again, if he would pay the costs, but he would not, and in 1841, the Sheriff turned him out of possession. Haney had no place to go to; and a man by the name of Macguire, the Woodranger, to whom the Sheriff delivered possession, on behalf of the proprietor, allowed him to go in again and remain till the Spring, when he was to go out, if he did not arrange for the place; but he would not, neither did he quit. In the Summer of 1842, an action was commenced against him for the rent, and judgment obtained, and when, a few weeks ago, he (the Solicitor General) had gone down to that part of the country, he had placed an execution against his goods in the hands of the Sheriff; but as he did not wish to be more severe than necessary with him, he instructed the Sheriff to intimate to him, that if he would go and leave the place, he would not seize his things. The Sheriff did so, and the man chose that alternative, and left of his own accord. He conceived that in doing this he was acting as leniently as he could—every one must see, that with so extensive a property, it would not do to allow an obstinate man to compel the owners to incur heavy costs, and after all, allow him to retain his possession. If he did, many would try the same experiment. Their doing so would be a good thing for him as a lawyer, but ruinous to the owners of the estate, and those who lived on it. Had he wished to act hardly with Haney, he would have allowed the execution to take its legal course. If his things did not realize sufficient to pay it, he might have put him in jail for the balance, and after all ejected him. All he could then have said, would be, that he was like hundreds of others, the victim of the escheater's doctrines, and that his obstinacy deserved the punishment he received. There was another charge, but it was almost too ridiculous to allude to; it had been said, that at New London, while settling with the tenantry, he kept a pair of loaded pistols on his table. That he had his pistols was quite true, and that they were on a table was probably also true; but they were not, as was attempted to be represented, on the table at which he sat, but on another, in some other part of the room, with the rest of his things. It was a charge that could only be laughed at, and could do no harm here; but its object was, to prejudice the minds of the tenantry, with whom he had to deal, against him, by making them believe (if they could,) that his feelings towards them were most hostile. He had no apprehensions from them: if he had, he would not so often go among them; he had always been treated by them with civility and respect. The people were, in general, as honest and well disposed a people as could be found in any country, and he would be a willing witness of the fact; and had they not been imposed on by these impostors, who were to give them free land but had not done it, the debt which now troubled them would not have existed, and any real evil would long since have been remedied. But in all countries, bad men might be found, whom the prospect of plunder would tempt to commit crime. To protect himself from such as these, and for this alone, like every traveller, he went armed. Two young men, in whose house he was a guest, had, he was informed, been examined in the other House, and said they lay on the table, without saying what table. They had, in fact, tried to make it be believed that they were on the table at which he sat. All he would say was, that any savage in the wilderness, if he received a man into his tent, would not be guilty of such a breach of hospitality as to endeavor to give an appearance of criminality to the acts of his guest, which he knew to be harmless and innocent. The committee to which he alluded, after sitting for two or three weeks, after sending for witnesses from the East and from the West, the North and the South, after conducting all their examinations behind his back, were unable to find a peg on which to hang a charge; but even then, their majority had not the honesty to say so, but virtually rose without reporting. After sending abroad the calumnies they had uttered against him, they wished to smother the fact that they had not told the truth; but the House could not be a party to such an iniquitous proceeding, and instead of the majority of the Committee procuring, as they had hoped, a censure upon him, like those who fell into a pit of their own digging, they actually got censured themselves. The House censured the Committee, and said that from the evidence, there was no ground for their interference; even the court of the much dreaded inquisitor did not judge or hear witnesses behind the backs of the accused. Let it be remembered, that in the inquisitorial committee which had sat in secret judgment upon him every thing was done behind his back, and no witnesses were called, save those who, it was hoped, would bring an accusing voice; and though goaded on by personal malignity and the necessity of fixing some charge upon him to screen their own sedition, they could not even pass a censure. He had very large estates under his control, nearly one-fifth of the Island, and it was impossible, with the many hundreds he had to deal with, but that some might feel themselves aggrieved; but if both sides were heard, perhaps instances of kindness and lenity might also be brought forward to counterbalance these, and to shew that, if, in some cases, an apparent severity was exercised, it arose not from a disposition to be severe, but because in these instances it was deemed necessary for the sake of example. His hon. and learned friend had so fully pointed out the impropriety of a House of Assembly assuming a jurisdiction to enquire into the conduct of private individuals, that he would not detain the House with many observations on that head; he had no reason personally to regret that they had, in the present instance, assumed the right for the purpose of attacking him, but he must raise his voice and protest against such proceedings, because they are unconstitutional and illegal, and because, if they were tolerated, it was evident that malignant individuals might, under colour of their privilege, be able to send abroad the most wanton aspersions of character, rendered ten-fold more baneful by the apparent respectability of the source from which they came, and perhaps supported by *ex-parte* testimony, which the accused had no opportunity of examining or confronting. He protested against such proceedings. The House of Assembly went far beyond their duty and jurisdiction, in attempting to assume the right. How could there be a greater prostitution of its high duties? how could the respect which ought to be due to it be more effectually lowered, than by permitting itself to be made the vehicle of private calumny or the enquirer into alleged private delinquency? It was the arbitrary assumption of a most inquisitorial right which ought to be put down. He had said, he hoped the proprietors would consent to the request contained in the resolutions. The only thing which he feared would prevent this was the disturbances and inflammatory resolutions which had taken place and have been passed in the Country. Were the people so foolish as to suppose that they would grant to fear or intimidation that which they would not concede from a sense of justice? If they were, they were much mistaken. Nothing would tend so much to prevent concessions being made, as the course which the people had lately been pursuing. There was no doubt that these disturbances had arisen from some of the agitators of the other House, and the meetings were held and resolutions passed at their instigation. It was of a piece with all their proceedings, to try in some way or other to urge the people into acts which would prevent any thing tending to their good being done. Therefore the moment they saw that a measure founded on reason or justice was about to be proposed, and would therefore probably be agreed to, they induced the people to get up those meetings (how much further they desired that they would go, was a secret lodged in their own hearts), for the purpose of exasperating the proprietors, and thereby induce them to reject the proposal—while, however, he feared the consequences, he hoped that they would look only at the secret instigators, and not visit their sins upon those whom they deceived by their counsels, and betrayed to serve their own selfish views. He concluded by moving, that that part of the Resolution which stated that the arrears of Rent were largely increased by bonds and judgments to secure the same, should be struck out.

The Hon. Mr. HOLL said, it will be unnecessary for me to occupy the time of your honors further, than to state, that I fully concur in the observations made by the hon. the President; whose conduct, on the present occasion, does equal credit to his heart and understanding. It must be perfectly clear to every unprejudiced mind, after the very full and satisfactory explanation of the Solicitor General, that all the charges which have been so industriously circulated to his injury, as a land Agent, are false and unfounded; and we have further presumptive evidence from the silence observed by the select Committee of the House of Assembly, appointed to enquire into his conduct—the proceedings of which Committee may, with propriety, be denounced as tyrannical, inquisitorial, and, I may add, unconstitutional; and I trust that measures will be adopted to prevent the recurrence of so monstrous and unprecedented a procedure, resembling as, it does, *on the part of the majority of that Committee*, more the act of the midnight assassin than that of an honorable and upright member of a British Legislature.

The Hon. Mr HENSLEY said, it is scarcely possible to have listened to the observations of the hon. President without participating the feelings he has so justly expressed, and I trust your honors will excuse my leaving the Chair, that I may state to you the sentiments I entertain upon this painful subject. I find it indeed, difficult to express all the contempt I feel for the utterers and propagators of the slanders which have been so industriously spread abroad with respect to His Honor the Solicitor General. There is no language befitting this place which can too strongly express the detestation which I conceive to be due to the authors of such calumnies. Happily, as is often the case, the eagerness of malevolence has only hastened its own defeat and confusion. His honor has cause to thank his enemies for the course they thought fit to take in this matter; for certainly the result must be received as a complete acquittal and absolution from the foul imputations attempted to be cast upon his reputation. I rejoice, and every friend of justice ought and will rejoice, in this termination to so strange a proceeding. Not that I believe his honor permitted these unjust aspersions to disturb the composure of his mind, but the calmness and equanimity of his demeanor under them had its proper effect in rendering them comparatively harmless. Such conduct we cannot but admire. And it is ever thus—integrity has always sufficient sustainment and consolation, under troubles such as these, in the conscious rectitude of its purposes, and the firm mind ever disregards both the smiles and the frowns of the world, and is content rather to deserve, than to expect its favour.

The Hon. CHARLES YOUNG then rose, and said something to the following effect:—

Mr. Chairman—Although I am the last to rise and address your honors on the subject matter of the proposed amendment to the Resolution, yet I am not the less anxious to express my opinion in its favor, because it is founded on fact, and also to evince my satisfaction at the clear and lucid manner in which my hon. and learned friend, the Solicitor General, has exculpated himself from the calumnies that have been industriously circulated against him: his statement to us this day has been so open, candid and impressive, and has been delivered in such a calm, forcible and dispassionate manner, that its truth is stamped upon my mind, and must carry conviction to the heart of every one who has heard him. I must congratulate him, Sir, upon the opportunity that has thus unexpectedly been afforded him, of making a public explanation of the conduct he has pursued, in his capacity of land agent; conduct which, in my opinion, most clearly refutes all the calumnies that have been uttered against him. I confess, Sir, that I, too, have heard these falsehoods reiterated over and over again, not only in my professional capacity as a lawyer, but also in the capacity of a private gentleman of this community, and although I did not believe the whole of them, yet they had the effect of making certain impressions upon my mind against the learned Solicitor General. Although he and I differ widely in our politics, yet I would deem myself unworthy of the name of a man, and utterly unworthy of holding a seat at this honourable Board, did I not now say, that these impressions are fully eradicated from my bosom, and that I am convinced he is guiltless of the charges of cruelty, oppression and tyranny, that have been alleged against him. I think, Sir,