

pany of Volunteers. The letter was given to Mr. Archibald M'Leellan, the postman with the direction, that, if the gentleman to whom it was addressed was absent, he was to hand it to me for perusal. I read it; and so far as I remember, the general tenor of the letter was this:—Sir; Having been lately appointed to the command of the Volunteer Company, it appears to me the intention is to deprive your people from entering these corps. Not coinciding with these exclusive feelings entertained by the parties, I enter my protest against such feelings; because, when I come to this country, I did not bring these feelings with me. In looking over the Laws, I find your people are obliged, in case of any formal commotion, to be turned out as well as the favored people; and I do not know why they should be excluded from the red coat and jacket. If you will come forward and bring your people with you, I will, so far as I am concerned, do them justice. I never, Sir, had any ambition to be a soldier, nor have I any partiality for the red jacket. It was unnecessary to say in the mandamus sent to the District which I represent, that my people should not join in this movement; for they have no enthusiasm in that respect. I believe the general impression is, this force is to be employed in the collection of rents. This may be denied; but there is no one living in a country in which the laws are not respected. Cases have arisen in this country in which the Sheriff has been successfully resisted; and if the people become victorious in the one case, they may be in others. In such cases it would likely be said to these companies, which of you will volunteer to put down this lawless concern? In Ireland, there used to be repeated applications for the Militia to volunteer for particular services. A Captain on receiving this information, would bring out his men, draw them up with their backs to a wall, and then command all who wanted to volunteer to fall back (laughter). Then there would be three cheers for the Volunteers (laughter). It appears to me that the Volunteers here must be of a particular class. A pretty thing to give one set of men—your natural enemies—arms, and refuse them to others? Hearing these things in mind, how can I give one shilling towards this object? It is enough to keep the Legislature from giving anything to men purely one-sided. At the present time, in Ireland, there is a great objection on this ground to volunteer companies. But had that Captain never written a letter to me, I would have opposed it; for I do not consider they are necessary for the protection of our wives and daughters. One hon. gentleman was willing to take £1000 from the Education Fund to give to them. In a few days I shall bring up a Bill for a famous bridge at Cassumper, for which we cannot get £100 or £200 to finish it, though it has cost £1300 already, and remains useless for want of a small sum to complete it. Still a proposal is made to give these young men £1000.

Hon. Mr. THORNTON.—Respecting the exclusion of Catholics, I may say I was removed from the Magistracy. Now, I say, if Roman Catholics are to be removed because they are such, it is not a fair Government. The late Government did not do so. I would be sorry to interfere with any man's faith, for every man should be allowed to go to heaven in the best way he can. Never before have I spoken of Catholics in this House. But this Religion! It hangs loosely upon myself sometimes; but on hearing the faith of my forefathers spoken of in this way, I cannot keep quiet. Reference has been made to a Roman Catholic who has been left in the Road Commission; but I may state that I, as a Catholic, and one who took a prominent part in political affairs was discarded; but I stand higher in the estimation of my constituents on account of being so treated.

Hon. SPEAKER.—I am sorry this discussion on the subject before us has arisen. I think it should have been discussed without reference to religious parties. In the part of the country which I have the honor to represent, both parties would be willing to give something to assist the Volunteers. As far as my knowledge extends, feelings such as have been mentioned here do not exist. I consider this to be an improper place to bring up this question. I never heard before that Roman Catholics were excluded from Volunteer corps on account of their religion. Certainly I do not think they are proscribed on these grounds. If a sum were voted for the purpose of assisting the Volunteers, I do not think the country would complain. On the contrary, I am of opinion their concurrence would be gained.

Hon. Mr. MAJLAY said he was sorry sectarianism had been dragged into the debate, and was afraid it would not be attended with beneficial results. In his opinion the country should foster the Volunteer movement. In doing so they had illustrious precedents. He thought some error must have crept into the law to which the hon. member from Prince George alluded; and in reference to removals from the Bench, he thought men of strong political bias should never sit upon it; for such bias would be likely, in spite of the will, to influence the judgment.

Hon. Mr. MONTGOMERY said he would ask when the House intended to close the debate on the Address. Already seven days had been spent in discussing what could have been settled in as many hours; and in his opinion the country would derive little benefit from the discussion.

Hon. COOPER said he was much pleased with the military appearance of the Volunteers on the occasion of the visit of the Prince of Wales. But when he came to understand a select on had been made—that one party was in the first place suspended, in the next place neglected, and then insulted—he thought they would be likely to trample on the rights of others. He was opposed to anything like partiality; but when the time came for voting, he would not be backward in voting something for their assistance.

Hon. Mr. HOWAT considered that a Bill brought in for the regulation of the Volunteers should be very mild in its principles; and that any Volunteer should have liberty to resign his gun whenever he wished.

Hon. Mr. LONGWORTH.—As we have heard the opinions of hon. members, Mr. Chairman, pretty fully upon the point under consideration, it would not be my duty to remain silent. The discussion has taken a wide range, as allusion has been made to subjects remote from the one under consideration. But I may say I am glad it is so; for had we taken the statements of the hon. Leader of the Opposition the country might have felt disposed to believe the present Government had done an act of injustice to a large and respectable body of the inhabitants of P. E. Island—the Roman Catholics. This was a prominent point in the arguments of the hon. Leader of the Opposition. We have been told we are not disposed to do justice to all parties; that we are actuated by improper motives; and that our object is to build up the Government by favoring one section of the people, at the expense of the rights and privileges of the other portion of the community. As a member of the Government I repudiate such sentiments; and the hon. member who makes these charges are not borne out by facts. Now, it so happens the Roman Catholics are united in sentiment. We see this whether we look at Italy, Ireland, Nova Scotia, or P. E. Island. It does not necessarily follow, however, that they should be opposed to Conservative principles. Here, so far as they supported the existing Government, they were appointed to offices; and if we refer to general support we find they have received more than any Protestant denomination. The hon. member from Cardigan referred to this dismissal. But he must have known that a law had been passed which required the re-appointment of persons to fill the office of Commissioner; and, for reasons unnecessary to mention, Mr. Thornton's name did not appear in the list of re-appointments; so in his case there was no dismissal. I would ask the hon. Leader of the Opposition how they acted when in power? Did they, when filling up these appointments, select gentlemen from the ranks of their political opponents? No;—but because the present Administration pursued the same policy, they are appointed for so doing. But there are many gentlemen on the Bench in King's County, and in the Road Commission under the new Law who are Catholics; in Prince George also, and Government was to proscribe this class, these men would not have been appointed to office. The same course, too, is adopted in reference to Protestants who are opposed to the Government. As regards the policy of the Government in encouraging the Volunteer movement, it is unnecessary to go over the ground which has been already travelled, and use the arguments so ably employed by the hon. Leader of the Opposition, and the hon. member from Cardigan. It seems somewhat strange to me this subject should have been complicated in the manner in which it has, by the hon. Leader of the Opposition by referring to the Militia Law. He would make it appear the Volunteer movement is all unnecessary; that the Militia is all we need. But we know the Militia law was never a popular one, because based upon the principle of compulsion. For this reason it has never been successful; and never was resorted to in these colonies excepting in cases of extreme necessity. It has remained upon our Statute Book nearly a dead letter. The question before us, Mr. Chairman, is a simple one—Is

the intention of this Legislature to stand aloof from the Volunteer movement, and thus make this Province an exception to the other Colonies, and to Great Britain itself?—Or do we wish to see young men from one end of this Island to the other enrolled in the Volunteer corps? Do we desire to see manifestations of public spirit encouraged, and the welfare of this country promoted?—If so, let us encourage and foster the Volunteer movement. In doing so, we follow the example set by Great Britain, Canada, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick. Why should we suppress feelings of patriotism in our young men? No case, I conceive, has been made out why this Legislature should not extend a helping hand to the Volunteers.

Hon. Mr. THORNTON.—In reference to the removal of men from the Bench, of strong political bias, alluded to by an hon. member, I would ask if ever that bias induced me to give a verdict against a political opponent? The hon. member, Mr. MAJLAY can answer for he sat upon the Bench with me. When politics came in the way on these occasions, I always set them aside. But I would ask further, if the men who now serve as Commissioners are not men of strong political feelings?—Certainly they are. It was said I was not dismissed from the office of Road Commissioner,—no; it was unnecessary; for I informed the Government by letter, that as they had removed me from the judicial office on account of my political views, I had no desire to retain the other office.

Mr. OWEN said that in removing from the Bench men of strong political bias the present Government was only following the example which was set by the late Government which removed Mr. Goff in 1852 for that reason, and for so doing that they had not even the excuse of an Act.

Hon. Mr. COLES.—I beg the hon. member's pardon, the Act was passed.

Mr. OWEN.—He was the only one who was removed; and a perfect stranger was put in his place. (Hear.) Mr. Thornton was displaced under the new Act.

A Journal till 3 o'clock.

APPROPRIATE SITTING.

Hon. Mr. KELLY said when he endeavored to form a company of Volunteers he was refused permission, and told there were no arms. Since that time he had learned that other companies had been permitted to purchase arms. He had standing in the Militia entitled him to some consideration; for he had the honor of serving as a Captain in the Militia 20 years under Governor Fitz Roy; and also under Sir John Harvey. Taking these things into consideration, he (Mr. Kelly) thought he ought to have been allowed the honor of forming a small company of Volunteers.

Hon. Mr. KELLY.—On a long, gentlemen rise one after another who had been officers in the Militia, or were officers in Volunteer corps, and reflect that I was but a poor fellow. I feel proud of my country, take an interest in my countrymen, and have much confidence in the loyalty of its inhabitants. I think the Volunteer movement is a laudable one, if properly carried out; and, looking at the present state of the world at present, this militia organization is an absolute necessity. I am of opinion it is our duty to assist and encourage the movement. But, Sir, I must say that of the force which was intended for laudable purposes, is to be converted into an engine of terror to a portion of the community, it will be the worst thing which ever happened our country. I would, however, such is not the case, that I should not object to any people finding themselves in, if one portion of the country was armed and the other defenceless? I, for one, if in the latter class, would feel myself in a dangerous position. In legislation on this matter, then, we should be cautious. At present I do not feel that I am called upon to pledge myself to pursue any particular course, but I shall wait till the committee on the subject report. With respect to the Militia, I would think it is unfair that Companies in Charlottetown should have their drill Sergeants paid for, while others in the country are compelled to pay the own expenses. I understood that the Government were to pay one half of the expense. I would have no objection to vote a small sum to drill Sergeants, but I do not pledge myself. As to the Militia, I am not in a position to take the subject into consideration when the time comes to legislate upon it.

Hon. Mr. WHELAN having read his own amendment said—This amendment, Mr. Chairman, does not pledge this House to any specified course of action. I am not going to return my position in the Legislature, and ask the people of P. E. Island to contribute money for the support of an organization which I shall show is entirely unnecessary. From time to time we have been told of the distressed state of this Colony, and of the deficiency of the revenue to meet the expenses of the current year. We have been reminded of our limited resources, and of the amount of the public debt. Since the present session of the Legislature opened, the hon. member from P. E. Island, the distressed state of which hon. member cannot close their eyes—among an overwhelming majority of the people of this Island, on account of the loss of trade, which the Government expressed so much anxiety to restore. And, further, we know it to be a fact which cannot be controverted, that the revenue of 1861 is by no means commensurate with the expenses of the year. By and by we shall be told when called upon to vote what is absolutely necessary for roads and bridges, and also a sum for the relief of a large class of our fellow subjects who pass under the name of paupers, and of whose circumstances we must give some consideration, but we must limit the grant for these purposes, to enable us to devote a portion of the revenue to other objects of the Volunteer corps, which are adequate to all demands. I would like to know, too, what propriety there was in the suggestion of a supporter of the Government who expressed his willingness to take from the last dividend salaries of Schoolmasters £1000 for the military education of our youth. Is this the kind of patriotism we should expect from the supporters of the Volunteer movement? First proposed, I was not opposed to it; nor would I be opposed to it now were it carried out in the same spirit in which it was commenced. But from the indications given, as I shall show, I am positive it was a party, political movement ever since this Government was organized. On several occasions on that point I have expressed my dissent, and on the 10th of June, which now bears the high-sounding title of the Prince of Wales Bill Company. Now I would be opposed to voting one sixpence of the public money, in any form, to aid this movement. Look at the distresses made to-day respecting the pariz character of this organization? And if we want any proof of the necessity of an amendment, we need only refer to the connection with the present movement last summer to organize a Company under the name of the "Celtic Volunteers." When the Grace the Duke of Newcastle was he expressed his views respecting the necessity of making the movement as general as possible. In the presence of many of his Grace said if the Colony had not a sufficient number of men to equip additional companies, he would be ordered from Britain. Sir Fenwick Williams too, a short time previous, in his own room, expatiated on the necessity of forming Volunteer Companies—saying every inducement should be held out to young men to go forth to enroll. Moreover, there was a desire on the part of Her Majesty's Government, and especially on the part of the Legislature, to have the other Provinces, that there could not have been the slightest objection to their format in this Colony. Then, I ask, why was the application of the Celtic Volunteers rejected by His Excellency and his advisers? Why should 60 young men, of irreproachable character, who were anxious to serve their country, be treated in such a manner? And yet, not one member will defend the acts of the Commander-in-Chief. But had he been desirous of carrying out the instructions of the Duke of Newcastle, his superior in command, or the injunctions of General Williams, he would not have rejected the application of the Celtic Volunteers in the manner he did. It showed a desire on his part to favor those only who obey the behests of the Government. Subsequently, at a public meeting, the young men, in resolution which they passed, justly found fault with the Commander-in-Chief. Though the terms in which they did this may have been strong, yet had I been in their situation I would have expressed my sense of the injustice in terms much stronger. They charged him with injustice and impetuosity in refusing to receive them, and in not having a cord-patch on between the gentlemen proposed as Captain, who also presided at the meeting, and the Adjutant-General, which resulted in causing the former to lose his commission as Major in the Militia. Because that gentleman had the misfortune to express his views respecting the conduct of the Commander-in-Chief in such a manner, and in terms not half as strong as I would have employed, because he had the courage and independence to express his sentiments as a citizen, he was deprived of his standing in the Militia, and of his office as Commissioner of the Peace. Allowance may be made for an exhibition of feeling, but that is no reason why wrong should have been inflicted on him. The judicial office, too, above all others, should be kept free from party feeling or political bias. But now if a man chooses to dissent from the views of the Government, or his advisers, he is stripped of the patry office of Justice of the Peace; but God forbids that this class of men should ever become the subservient tools of the Government. In this transaction I charge the Commander-in-Chief with having committed an unjust, impolitic act. 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Hon. Mr. WHELAN.—What did he mean by his allusion to St. Pierre and Miquelon? But I am not to be humbugged by the idea which Napoleon I. did not carry into effect—namely, to land on the shores of Albion,—should he put in requisition those powerful armaments of war—those great military equipments which he has accumulated around him—should he launch these against England—and I trust I shall gain your concurrence in the opinion which I am about to enunciate—England, united by any European power, is settable to conquer the world. (Hear.) But, forthwith, when England and France wage war, according to the gloomy apprehensions of the leader of the Government, we are to have a corvette of 16 guns come upon us, bringing destruction to the poor inhabitants of Charlottetown by taking our notes out of the Bank. But supposing such a war should arise, what, I ask, could Catholics from public offices, that since the present Government came into power 152 Magistrates had been appointed, of these only 4 were Roman Catholics; 65 Commissioners of Small Debts, but only 5 Catholics; 33 Road Commissioners and only 3 Roman Catholics. We can easily understand the propriety of proscribing this class in the community, and then standing up in parliament, and speaking of Roman Catholics from public offices, that since the present Government came into power 152 Magistrates had been appointed, of these only 4 were Roman Catholics; 65 Commissioners of Small Debts, but only 5 Catholics; 33 Road Commissioners and only 3 Roman Catholics. 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