

ment, he could imagine, provided it produced the effects in England which we hoped it would not, he could imagine half a dozen different ways by which the interests of this Dominion might be prejudicially affected by a change of sentiment and feeling on the other side of the water. His hon. friend from Wentworth South thought the liberties of Canada were at stake, because this despatch came, not laying down any commands, but reasoning and arguing the point. He might be allowed to tell his hon. friend that he (Mr. Howe) had seen the Constitution of his country swept away, and he had to bow to a despatch, with all Canada at the back of the Colonial Secretary, which did not take away £3,000 out of the Treasury, but which took away the Constitution of his country. He had to bow to this not pleasantly or happily, but had been compelled to face new circumstances which, at his time of life, he declared he would gladly not have faced, but so Canada, and so the Imperial Government had willed it. Some remarks had dropped from the hon member for Waterloo South about republican simplicity. It was hardly worth while to raise that question.

Hon. Mr. Holton—It was the Minister of Justice who raised it.

Hon. Mr. Howe thought it should not have been raised. They had formed this Dominion, and should be consistent with themselves. Every Act they passed had the Queen's name at the head of it, and they were in a position which, he thought, excluded them from discussing the question of any large change for some time to come. He admitted that, when they contrasted this salary with that of the President of the United States, it was a very large one. But, unless in that particular, if they looked across the line for republican simplicity, they would very likely be disappointed. He had just come from New York, and, he thought, a walk up Broadway would satisfy any one that they would search there in vain for republican simplicity. They would see, on the contrary, the most extravagant and most luxurious community on the face of the earth. Then coming to Ottawa, when he looked at these splendid buildings, they did seem to savour of a monarchy; but he found half the members living in lodgings in a style of republican simplicity, which might satisfy almost any one. The member for Hochelaga had attacked the Ministry for not giving His Excellency proper advice with regard to the Bill of last session. He (Mr. Howe) did not hold himself responsible for any offences the Ministry might have committed last year. It would be as much as he could do to defend

d'attitude à notre égard de la Mère Patrie pourrait nuire aux intérêts du Dominion. Son honorable ami le député de Wentworth Sud prétend que la liberté du Canada est en jeu à cause de cette dépêche qui, loin de dicter des ordres, ne cherche qu'à convaincre au moyen d'arguments logiques. M. Howe précise à son ami qu'il a été le témoin de l'abolition de la Constitution de son pays. Il a dû s'incliner, et tout le Canada avec lui, devant une dépêche du Secrétaire des Colonies; celle-ci certes, ne réclamait pas 3,000 livres au Trésor, mais supprimait la Constitution de son pays. Ce n'est pas de gaieté de cœur qu'il s'inclina, mais il fut contraint de faire face à de nouvelles circonstances qui, à son âge, ne lui souriaient guère. Mais, le Canada et le Gouvernement Impérial en ont voulu ainsi. L'honorable député de Waterloo Sud a fait certaines remarques au sujet de la simplicité républicaine. Il ne vaut guère la peine de relever la question.

L'honorable M. Holton—C'est le ministre de la Justice qui l'a soulevée.

L'honorable M. Howe est d'avis qu'on n'aurait pas dû soulever cette question. On a décidé de constituer le Dominion et on devrait être logiques avec soi-même. Chacune des Lois adoptées l'est au nom de la Reine, ce qui empêche, à son avis, pendant fort longtemps encore d'envisager des changements substantiels. Il admet que lorsqu'on compare ce traitement avec celui du Président des États-Unis il paraît très important. Mais, à part cela, si on cherche la simplicité républicaine chez les Américains, on risque d'être déçu. Il revient justement de New York et il pense qu'une promenade sur Broadway convaincra tout le monde que ce n'est pas là qu'on trouve la simplicité républicaine. Bien au contraire, on y voit une des sociétés les plus extravagantes et les plus luxueuses au monde. En revenant à Ottawa, on découvre ces édifices splendides qui revêtent, semble-t-il, un cachet monarchique. Mais on découvre aussi que la moitié des députés habitent des appartements d'une simplicité républicaine. Le député d'Hochelaga reproche au ministère de ne pas avoir soumis à Son Excellence le projet de loi adopté durant la dernière session. Il (M. Howe) ne se sent pas responsable des erreurs que le Gouvernement a pu commettre l'an dernier; il a déjà suffisamment de peine à défendre son action présente; il lui