

# THE CANADIAN MIRROR

## OF PARLIAMENT.

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## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

THURSDAY, July 28.

## NATURALIZATION BILL—CONTINUED.

Mr. SIMPSON said he had but one thing to object to, which was, that instead of five years residence as the bill provides the period should be seven. If it required seven years to learn a simple trade, he thought there should at least as long a probation be required before a foreigner should be endowed with the highest attributes of a British Subject.

Mr. MERRITT said it was amusing to hear the apprehensions which are expressed by hon. members concerning Americans.—There were, he was happy to say, in that house some living witnesses of the conduct of those very people, who had been so mercilessly traduced, on occasion of the late war with the United States in 1812. And who were the originators of the late rebellion? Were they Americans? No, they were the English, Irish, and Scotch! (Hear, hear.) When hon. gentlemen talk of Americans disseminating their republican principles in this country; he really thought it was very like a tacit admission that their institutions were better than our own: else where could be the danger to be apprehended from their attempts. He (Mr. Merritt) would be ashamed to make such an admission; particularly as we have now responsible government. (Hear, hear.) He hoped the bill would pass; and more than that, he would have been better pleased if the government had sent down a measure which would have embraced foreigners from all parts of the earth! He thought it was high time that they should abandon the Chinese policy hitherto pursued and adopt a more liberal and extended policy. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. CARTWRIGHT said he believed that the gallant and learned Knight had on a former occasion been in favor of a measure of this description which was introduced in the House of Assembly of Upper Canada by the learned and gallant Colonel from Essex. He (Mr. Cartwright) was in a minority upon that question, but subsequent events had justified the vote he then gave.

Colonel PRINCE said he only regretted that this bill does not go to the same extent as the one to which the hon. and learned member had just alluded. But he (Col. Prince) was one of those who was willing to get half a loaf if he could not get a whole one. He was astonished to find the gallant Knight from Hamilton so strenuously opposing this bill. He was quite at a loss to imagine by what consideration he was actuated, whether it was because the bill emanates from the government, (hear, hear,) or whether the events of the last four years have changed his opinions—those events which have conferred upon the gallant Knight a great deal of renown at very little inconvenience to himself. (Hear, hear.) If it could be ascertained, the gallant Knight would discover that the majority of the individuals for whom this bill is intended are those who stood by us in the time of our difficulty, not those who annoyed the government of this country during the four years of rebellion. He would acquit the Americans, as a nation, of having been instrumental in putting the government

of this country to the expense it had been three or four times, and had as often been put to. The revolution of '76 to which hon. rejected by the Legislative Council. The gentlemen seemed to attach so much importance as exhibiting the ingratitude of the measure was that it is republican, and that American nation, he (Col. Prince) contended it was a disgrace to come to the polls and was an honor to that nation; he declared they were perfectly justified. (Hear, hear.) however, of its being a secret vote was the very thing which in his estimation recommended it, because in that very secrecy lay the security. It is calculated to render secure the poor voter, to the tradesman, the mechanic, from the oppression of those who are able to exercise a strong control

Mr. HALE said he thought there was some consideration due to the remark of the gallant Knight from Hamilton, that the bill comprehends also those who remain within the Province by compulsion—men suffering punishment for crimes. He thought this should not be overlooked.

Mr. HINCKS said he could not allow to pass unnoticed the observation that the Americans who come into this Province are the dregs of society. He (Mr. Hincks) would affirm that there was not a more sober, well conducted class of people in the Province, and they were inclined also to be the most peaceable and loyal subjects, so long as they were treated with consideration. But it had unfortunately been the policy of the government, or rather of the dominant faction in this Province, to oppress them, and deny them the privilege of obtaining the redress of their grievances, after having settled amongst us, and after having cleared our forests and converted our wilderness into productive fields. As to their being wedded to republican principles, he (Mr. Hincks) would affirm without fear of successful contradiction that those who are so wedded to republican institutions would never come into this Province to become inhabitants thereof.

Col. PRINCE said if this measure had been introduced by any other than a countryman of his own, he would have felt less astonishment. But that an Englishman in an English province should have the temerity to bring forward a measure so completely hostile to British institutions, was a matter not to be brief, because he finds that he has learned speech of the hon and learned gentleman has been brief, but brief as the speech of the hon gentleman has been, mine shall be still more brief. I admit that in the old country the vote by ballot may in some cases be useful, but I am not prepared to say that it is that system of voting at elections which I would vote for; but I am prepared to one observation of the learned gentleman to say that if there is a country in the world from Essex, who said that he considered the Americans were perfectly justified in their revolution. He (Sir Allan) believed if this were admitted, that upon the same rate of reasoning we should all be rebels in this province. (Hear, hear.) The learned gentleman might be assured that he (Sir Allan) had no particular desire to oppose the government or to support it. [Hear, hear.] So long as he considered the government to be right he would of course support them but no longer. [Hear, hear.] He (Sir Allan) was not to be driven from his position by ridicule or by the terror of being thought an opposer of the government.

The motion was negatived and the bill passed.

FRIDAY, July 30.

## THE BALLOT BILL.

The house went into committee upon this bill—Mr. JOHNSTON in the chair.

Mr. SMALL said, in rising to propose the adoption of the first enacting clause of this bill, he would not detain the committee with any lengthened remarks upon it. The principle of voting by ballot had been discussed in almost every session of the Upper Canada Legislature for the last ten or fifteen years, and in the Bill had passed the House of Assembly

has any necessity for resorting to this underground mode of giving his vote: no, he may go boldly to the hustings, and defy any human being to injure him if he gives an honest vote. You may talk of Executive influence to be exercised over him he is ignoble. [Hear, hear.] I am aware that in a country where a man is dependent upon a rich, powerful, and sometimes tyrannical landlord, sometimes constrained to vote according to