

lation of the hon. member from Clare was my friend and fellow labourer in all the struggles of that period. I have not seen him for years. What he thinks of me now I know not, but he will ever dwell in my memory and I can only think of him as of a friend.

Mr. Howe then replied to the observations made upon the enlistment question, but, as these were given at large in the report of last session, we omit them here. He concluded by thanking the House for the patience with which they had heard him, and by the expression of a hope that he had discussed the subjects before him in a spirit of candour and moderation.

HON. FINANCIAL SECRETARY.—I rise to make a few remarks, touching observations which have been addressed to the house during the debate. Much that has been said I consider not worthy of notice. We have been charged with following out the policy of gentlemen opposite. In one sense that may be partly true. The late government and its supporters, made it requisite that there should be party, and party strife of the warmest character. By introducing that system they have arrayed the people, one against another. Those who attained to office in 1857, had to follow out the policy of responsible government to some extent, as pursued by their predecessors, who introduced it in its worst features, and resisted every attempt of the conservative side for the adoption of measures for the good of the country, and to carry out responsible government honestly. Who opposed the municipal corporation bill, which would give to the country the appointment of its own officers? Those who now charge us with not carrying out our policy. We cannot do so. The existing system of government is unfit for it in its present state. The opposition rejected every part of it that gave control to the people, and took that which gave themselves power. They resist it now, the extension of that power to the people which they professed to give when they introduced the system. That is an answer to those who talk of our policy. They were first negligent in not introducing all the system, and now they are guilty of wasting time, and attacking the government for not doing what they themselves resist. They blame us as enemies of the public works. After commencing large works, and causing embarrassment by want of caution and skill, they left the government—subject to difficulties and onerous duties—to their successors; and now have the audacity to charge us with being enemies to the works, which we had to carry on under their difficulties. In reference to the appointments made to the Legislative Council, do the opposition want the government to approach that body, and ask it to denude itself of power, without first completing its numbers, and so placing it in a state fit for deliberation on so important a question? If I sat in that branch, under such circumstances, and such a bill were carried by this house, I would resist and petition the Queen, stating that the government was carried on inconsistently with the constitution of the country; that one branch was incomplete, while it was called to consider a measure adverse to its own privileges. Concerning selections according to counties, the government did right to put the proper man there. That is my answer to that objection.

One gentleman, the member for the county of Halifax, who comes under the denomination of meddler, thought proper to travel out of the record, to make allusions to what I said relative to the learned member for Colchester. I give him this answer: I never pay much attention to what he says, and only intend to make a passing reply to any of his remarks. I draw a vast distinction between his views and those of the member for Colchester.

I turn attention to remarks much more worthy of notice. The member for Windsor, in his speech of seven hours, gave me opportunity for making copious notes; some of which only I will make use of in reply to parts of his remarks. Brief space only was given by that gentleman to the resolutions, and the rest to various matters which I cannot now treat as they might be treated.—He spoke of his ideas of dismissals from office, and qualification for it. The cry on these subjects is raised by a desperate party out of office, and not by the persons most concerned, or the people of the Province. We have no petitions here on the subject, and no published letters asking for enquiry. On the questions the meaning of the old adage of "save me from my friends" strongly applies. Those dismissed are not defended by dragging their names forward, and giving charges against them publicly. The Government held private character sacred; the parties received notice for what they were dismissed.—but by the action of the opposition these questions have become subject in record, in a way not at all calculated to be pleasing to those concerned. Without petition or due cause the opposition bring forward these questions, being anxious to have anything to adduce against the government. Did the member for Windsor deal with those subjects on their merits—does he deny the truth of charges? No,—but for political purposes they are brought here. It may not be worth while that I should occupy time on the hon. member's speech,—but I consider it of a dangerous character, and calculated to have dangerous effect on the youth of the country. He excuses one man, because another has been guilty of some other offence, and speaks of us all having our faults, as if that could justify those liable to serious charges. He might well deny that he did not belong to the Protestant Alliance, for he seems not to have much religious doctrine of any kind. He speaks of men being fine fellows, and makes light of their public misdoings,—and mis-states circumstances, with a degree of levity not at all calculated to improve the public morals. He also brings the ten commandments into the question, setting one part of the decalogue as a kind of palliation for offences against another part, and thus exhibits the damaging example to youth, of one of our cleverest men making light of crimes by joking and sneering in a way not at all applicable nor appropriate to the case.—Therefore it is that I take a passing notice of that part of the hon. gentleman's speech, thinking it of dangerous tendency, and requiring some corrective accordingly. He then goes to topics which have been in question, and to some which require contradiction.

The hon. member enquires, why the government did not appoint Mr. Miller. I took considerable part on that occasion, during a former session. Mr. Miller approached the house by petition;—no charge appeared against his character.