

else over claimed. Oh, thou must be more than father or mother, than brother and sister, else how couldst thou, the lowliest among the children of men, lay claim to such superabundant love? Since I have believed in thy word, all my desire has been to love thee. I will not cease to love thee, until thou art dearer to me than father, mother, and brother! If they deny thee, if they revile thee,—what is so dreadful as to see one's father or mother reviled at our side!—but more than when they reproach father and mother, shall thy reproaches, thy wrongs go to my heart.—*Tholuck.*

Provincial Legislature.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,
FRIDAY, Feb. 6.

This day Mr. Johnston moved his resolution by way of amendment to the address in answer to his Excellency's speech. He did not design, he said, to offer any lengthened observations, but the confidence reposed by the people in that House, and the confidence accorded by the House to the Executive were of so grave import that it should be clearly known on what this confidence was based. He assumed, what he said could be no matter of doubt to honorable members, that the present administration did not possess the confidence of the House. He referred to the last session of the Assembly, commencing with taunts and terminating with the admission that no measure of importance had been passed. The blame was conveniently attributed to the new members; but novices should have been guided by the ancient sages of the Executive. Was there nothing to do—nothing required to be done? Why then take at least ten weeks to do nothing in? The hon. gentleman then arraigned the Government for having exerted their influence to prevent the Bill of last session prohibiting the importation of liquors from becoming law, after it had already received the support of some of their political friends.

"Was it not due to their friends and supporters that when they came to this city to fulfil their functions, they should be informed of the views and opinions entertained by the Executive upon a question of such vital importance as that to which I have referred. Sir, in the action of the Executive there is an exhibition of a moral Sampson, sightless and shorn of his strength—supported only by braggadocio. Was not the measure to which I have referred purely administrative? Was it not the duty of an Executive to have grappled with the question in a bold and fearless manner? Did the hon. and learned Attorney General, in view of the course he pursued during the last session, do justice to his friends, to the cause, to the Legislature, or to the country? Was it not his duty to have ascertained the views of his friends before he enunciated his opinions and took the course which placed them in, to say the least of it, a most awkward position."

"Again, sir, it was enunciated by a supporter of the hon. and learned Attorney General, at the last session, as a portion of their political faith, that the public affairs of the Province should be divided among the political supporters of the government; in fine, that to the victors belonged the spoils. That doctrine was assented to by him—it was met and controverted by those who had no confidence in the executive. He did not believe that the public offices were to be entirely the reward of political partizanship—and that men should be displaced because they chose to exercise the privileges of freemen. That doctrine did not meet with the unqualified sanction even of those who accorded the government their unwavering support; and, sir, in my judgment, it is a doctrine that should not be propounded, sanctioned or sustained by any government charged with the administration of public affairs in this province."

The honorable gentleman then referred to the introduction of the Educational Bill last session, which was promised in January, did not make its appearance till a month afterwards, and after passing through various stages, was finally strangled by the hands of the Attorney General himself. This was an important question, and I cannot doubt it was so regarded by the government. The measure was here for weeks. We hear nothing of it in the present speech, as if it was of nothing worth to the people of Nova Scotia. It may be a difficult subject to deal with, but it was presented to this House by the Attorney General, and should have been carried through, or the Government should have resigned. The hon. gentleman next denounced the conduct of the Government in the appointment of School Commissioners in the County of Annapolis, and closed with the remark: It is sufficient to say, that while the government of last session promised us everything which they have not done, their present exposition of policy is a "beggarly account of empty boxes." They have nothing to offer in the shape of measures which it is the duty of a government to offer; and, sir, considering that a do-nothing government has been so often denounced by the Attorney General himself, I move this resolution.

The Hon. Attorney General replied. He said, he did not for one moment shrink from meeting and an-

swering the charges preferred. He was prepared, as one member of the Executive, to test the confidence of the House in the present administration: he believed that it commanded and was entitled to that confidence and the support of the Liberal party, to the exercise of whose independent suffrages it owed its existence.—"The hon. and learned member says, that at the close of the last session, in the speech from the throne, it was admitted that no question of importance had been perfected. He was obliged to give us credit, if not for policy at least for candor. To have put in the mouth of his Excellency aught but that expressed in the speech would have been a stain upon the Executive and a degradation to the Lieutenant Governor."

"The hon. and learned member has animadverted in strong terms upon the course pursued by the Executive with relation to the Maine Liquor Law; true it is, that I pledged myself if the measure should meet with the concurrence of a majority of the Assembly that it should be faithfully and honestly carried out.—Once having become the law of the land, assented to by Parliament, it was the duty of the Executive to put it in execution. But, sir, there is a wide distinction between the law solemnly assented to by the Legislature, and a measure submitted to Parliament for decision. Had the Bill here become a law, it would have been the duty of the Executive to put it in execution to have carried it out. While it was before the Legislature, believing, as they did, that its principle was dangerous and pernicious, they gave it their strenuous opposition. Mark the result as tested by the experience of other countries. What have we seen in New Brunswick? The country convulsed—the Government shattered to bring about an unattainable end, to carry an impracticable measure. Similar results have followed the attempt to introduce it in the State of New York, and one of their most able and eloquent citizens has condemned the principle. I allude to Horace Greely, editor of the *N. Y. Tribune*.—What would have been the result in Nova Scotia? To embarrass the Revenue—to affect the public credit. Were the Government not justified in using what influence they possessed, not to destroy, but to postpone the passage of the Bill? And, sir, if this attempt shall succeed and the hon. member for Annapolis form a Government, if we may judge from the abated tone of his address to-day, no whisper of the Prohibitory Law will be heard."

The Hon. Attorney General then proceeded to dilate upon the impossibility of forming a Government which should be unanimously in favor of a Prohibitory Liquor Law. He said that the hon. member from Annapolis had done him great injustice when he referred to the enunciation of the principles relating to the removal of officials under Government. He had asserted that each case must be decided upon by its own merits; and the hon. gentleman had failed to show one instance in which the power of the Government had been exercised unjustly.

The question of Education was a most difficult one to touch. The Bill of last session was not propounded as a party measure. The question had never been one of party in the province; but the bill was destroyed by the determined efforts of the opposition.

The Hon. Attorney General professed entire ignorance of any injustices having been done in the formation of the School board at Annapolis, if such had occurred he would cheerfully remedy it at once.

"The hon. gentleman's statement has been to me an entire surprise; and the mighty grounds of his whole charges sink into insignificance. I am prepared to show that the Government have discharged its duty with honesty, integrity and justice; and I defy the opposition now combining to show otherwise. Sir, I challenge any gentleman, either in the House or out of it, to charge the Government with a single job of any kind,—in our Post Office, Board of Works, or any other department—nay, I charge them to show where, in the whole public business of the country, anything has been done without the strictest integrity—or in the most trustworthy manner."

SATURDAY, Feb. 7.

The debate on Mr. Johnston's Resolution was resumed.

Dr. Tupper endorsed the remarks of Mr. Johnston. He was prepared to agree with the sentiment, that perfect unanimity cannot be expected at all times in any government. But every measure proposed by the Government last session was defeated. Every office of emolument had been conferred as the reward of quieting opposition. A Judgeship had been given to the late Provincial Secretary, because he embarrassed the Government; he and the Hon. Solicitor Gen. held views antagonistic to the Government. The Hon. Mr. McKinnon did not disguise his opposition,—he was rewarded by a seat in the Executive Council. Mr. McHaffey defeated the action of the Government and he got his reward. Mr. McDonald, from Pictou, the Editor of the *Eastern Chronicle*, assails the Government for the appointment of Mr. McKinnon, and the Registrar of Deeds for the County of Pictou was conferred upon him. He concluded, then, that the Government had adopted the principle of silencing the opposition by the reward of offices of honor and emolument.

He went fully into the action of the Government upon the Educational measure, much after the same style of argument advanced by the leader of the opposition. The Government has not proposed a measure this session. He compared the speech from the throne to the speech put up by a puzzled minister into the mouth of an embarrassed Governor. Having taken the responsibility of the Educational measure, and

not having a majority to carry it out, the Government should have been frank enough to have requested his Excellency to re-organise the administration to carry out a measure which they believed to be of vital importance to the interest and welfare of this country. He charged the Hon. Attorney General with defeating the Municipal Incorporation Bill by the most strenuous opposition. It was a farce to send it to the country with the optional clause appended to it. The Government had been characterised by a desire to grasp place and power to put it into the hands of a few. He animadverted at some length upon the sentiments enunciated by the Hon. Mr. Howe and the Queen's Printer, in the columns of the *Chronicle*, and read several extracts charging the Government with having ignored and abdicated its functions. The country is now excited upon a religious question. It was not his disposition to drag it into the debate. He was of opinion that it is a question that ought to be settled between individuals. He had no hesitation in stating, in the most explicit terms, his decision upon the question of civil and religious liberty; he would ever fight under the banner of equal justice to the varied denominations that compose the population of Nova Scotia.

The Solicitor General following, defending his own course and that of his friends in the Prohibitory Liquor Measure, the Education Bill of last Session, and the policy of the Government on the subject of removal from office. He challenged the Opposition to name the great questions and measures they would propose, if they had the power, and concluded a very effective speech by drawing a flattering, but by no means overcharged, picture of the prosperity of the Country under the existing Administration—its steadily increasing revenue, and the thriving condition of the people.

Mr. Marshall followed in support of the resolution. He said the Conservatives were not seeking new alliances: such might be seeking them. He charged the Government with bartering away the fishery rights of the hardy fishermen of this country and depriving them of the means by which they obtained their daily bread. He contrasted the distress in some of the fishing districts with the bright picture of success drawn by the Solicitor General. It was a strange thing that the Conservatives should be called upon to unite in carrying out the educational measure. Why didn't they, like men, invite some few of the Conservatives into the Cabinet, if this measure could not be carried out without them? He would ask—why did you dismiss Mr. Miller, and deny to him the right of justifying himself? and as he was not afraid to approach any question this side of the grave, he would enquire—why put Mr. William Condon out of office? and why was he dismissed without any reason given? He had another new charge against the Government, that was—hypocrisy! If Mr. Condon, who was eating the bread of the Government committed an act nine or ten months ago which rendered his dismissal necessary, why didn't you turn him out like men? And how comes it you turn him out the second day after a vote of want of confidence is moved? What would you say of me if I had two men in my employ, one a Roman Catholic and the other a Protestant, and both did the same act, and I should kick the Catholic out of doors, and elevate the Protestant from the kitchen to the parlor? Why he believed the Government would commune with Beelzebub if they thought it would avail them. If he had been in Halifax and in the Government at that time, Mr. Condon should have walked—but, if he did, somebody else should have walked also! Who withheld the despatches on the fishery question? In their attempts to please everybody they have pleased nobody, and are likely to lose the Government in the bargain. Responsible government in Nova Scotia has been rendered a costly, expensive, and rotten concern.

MONDAY, Feb. 9.

The debate commenced on Monday, by Mr. Howe. He opened with a reference to the present position of the Government—the threatened defection of a section of their own supporters, of a particular religious denomination, (the Roman Catholics)—the division of the House into two parties, neither of them strong enough to carry on the Government, and a repetition of the spectacle exhibited by Falkland's Administration with a majority of 1 or 2 and but a single public measure during the four years they were office. If triumphant, the Conservatives could not carry on the Government—neither could the present Administration, unless reinforced—a reconstruction or an appeal to the country, in either case, therefore, appeared inevitable. Mr. H. examined the grounds upon which it was sought to justify a vote of want of confidence, but he rapidly passed from this branch of the enquiry to matters which had embarrassed the Administration, but with which they had little to do. He then traced the history of the recruiting mission to the United States, which did not originate with him or the administration, but with the Imperial Government—he went on that mission at the request of the Executive of this Country of which Michael Tobin and the late James McLeod were members,—and then he asked if Joseph Howe was to be punished, and, if Mr. Michael Tobin, who sent him, was to take his place! Mr. Condon's Telegraph to papers conducted by the enemies of England in the United States—his conduct at the Crampton meeting—his open sympathy with the Railway rioters when on their trial—and the abusive letters levelled at himself, were insufficient to move him to ask for his dismissal; and it was not until the evidence of his correspondence with rebels and outlaws, to defeat the objects of the Imperial Govern-