

*The Speaker.*—I admitted before that some mistake had occurred in the School Commissions, although I believe the other appointments were satisfactory. In the recent Commissions of the Peace, nearly eighty liberal Magistrates were appointed, and an equal number were included in other County Commissions throughout the year: more than had been appointed for the last twenty years. But it might be said by each side of the House—if we had a strictly party government, we might have all: this is true, but one side only could have it. Whatever may be the evils of a coalition, it has this advantage—that, if generously sustained by the friends of those who form it, it can act fairly towards both. Under a party government, those in power must keep all the patronage to themselves, to strengthen their position. This is the natural course of things. It is clear, then, that under such circumstances, whatever one party gains the other must lose; while the Country, looking to it as a whole, without reference to party connexions, would not have so equal and fair an Administration, under either, as it has now. Serious doubts are entertained, whether either of the parties which formerly divided this Province could form and carry on a Government independent of the other. The old Administration party certainly could not, for they form the minority in this House and throughout the Country. The other party could try the experiment, and it might succeed, but, the moment it was attempted, able men, whose talents are now employed to conduct the Government in harmony with the wishes of the people, would be driven into opposition, and compelled, perhaps, to combine with those who hold more extreme opinions, to embarrass and obstruct rather than to accelerate the introduction of a rational system. As far as I am personally concerned, I am free to acknowledge, that, if either party were prepared to carry on the Government respectably, in defiance of the other—if there were, as there are in England, a sufficient number of able men in each to fill every important office, and if great public questions formed broad lines of division between them—it would be more congenial to my feelings to serve in such a Government, or in constitutional opposition to it, than in a coalition; but, situated as parties were when Lord Falkland came to this Country, as they are now, and probably will be for some years to come, my conscientious belief is—that the Province will derive more advantage from the combined action of able men, whose main grounds of difference have been swept away by the recent Colonial improvements, than it would by splitting them into factions on minor political points, or mere personal predilections.

In this opinion the House concurred last year, and I do not believe that there is any large party disposed to disturb the broad foundation upon which the present Government rests, or to throw the Country into confusion, merely for the purpose of testing or abusing the great powers which the present system includes: this Assembly understands its high duties too well,—but we cannot shut our eyes to the fact that there is, beyond these walls, an unreasoning, irreclaima-