

Hon Mr COLES knew that the question had been put to the hon. members, and was satisfied with the explanation. If this Bill passed, they would have party processions, party banners, and a strong increase of party feeling. In fact, it was high time that the hon. the leader of the Government should take some prompt steps in the matter.

[Hon Mr Coles here read a letter from the *Examiner*, relative to the Orange association.]

Hon COL. SECRETARY—Those were bye-laws, not interrogatories.

Hon Mr COLES—Neither Catholics nor Protestants should tie themselves to the tail of any party, but use their best efforts for the common good of the Colony. This could not be brought about by attacking Catholics, as the hon. the Colonial Secretary had done. In England, no Protestant constituency had ever returned a Roman Catholic member as its representative; while the Catholics in this Island had acted in a different manner, as might be noticed in one instance, at least, (although there were others) the return of the hon. member for East Point, who, although a good Protestant, and who did not support the grant to St. Dunstan's College, had been returned by what was termed a Roman Catholic district. The Roman Catholics in the Island had, in fact, thrown out the olive branch, but it was not accepted, and the question arose as to what should be done. Was it safe or politic to keep this political-religious question continually before the public? With regard to the matter of prayers, and the allusions that had been made with respect to absent members at the opening of the House, or members leaving the House, he (Mr. C.) was of opinion that no member could feel himself bound to hear the prayers of a political agitator, who had obtained his situation through the influences brought to bear upon the Government by the Society it was now, by this Bill, proposed to incorporate. He (Mr C.) himself would be no slave even to his own Minister, if he felt that the Minister was going wrong, or requested him to act in a manner inconsistent with his duty, as a member of the House; no matter what the question might be, he would oppose it. The present discussion had been a long and wearisome one; it could not be productive of even the slightest amount of good to the Colony; and the less religious strife was started and encouraged amongst them, the better it would be for the whole Island.

Hon Mr POPE was sorry that so much ill-feeling had been aroused upon this question. He, for one, would be among the last to say anything against the creed of any religious denomination. He had no fear of Catholic ascendancy; as far as he was concerned he had but little to thank the Catholics for; they had always been in opposition to him, but he had always been successful in the encounter. The Society which it was proposed by this Bill to incorporate, was essentially a Protestant one, one that should be supported and encouraged, and one that had been long established. The Roman Catholic Bishop had said that he would unite the members of his Church to turn out the present Government. The Bishop did his best, aided by the press he had at command, to carry out his threat, and he had been most signally defeated. Now, if combination was allowed to exist upon one side, it should surely be permitted on the other. He, therefore, felt it his duty to support the second reading of the Bill now before the House. He was not an Orangeman himself, but he believed that that body had done more than anything else to preserve the peace of the Colony during the late elections. It was a great pity to see parties in so small a Colony so much divided; but he felt bound to say that the gauntlet had been thrown down from the other side, and that Bill now before them was, instead of being an offensive measure, to all intents and purposes one of a defensive character.

Hon Mr DAVIES would cheerfully support the motion for the second reading of the Bill. No matter in what Country—take Spain for instance—where Roman Catholicism was predominant, Protestants were treated worse

than dogs. Yet, in England and her Colonies, and where Catholicism had been allowed, they exercised full rights and privileges. There was nothing, however, in this Bill that could infringe upon the religious rite of any Catholic.

Mr DUNCAN was of opinion that the passing and adoption of this Bill would not take away the rights or liberties of any inhabitant of the Island. Under the British flag, every subject was entitled to and enjoyed the freest liberty; but when organizations were arranged upon the one side for political or religious purposes, it surely could not be complained that the opposite side should follow the example and organize too.

Mr HOWLAN denied, in the most emphatic terms, that, so far as he was concerned, there was any political organization.

Mr DUNCAN was willing to accept the hon. member's statement. Every member of this community had a right to his own opinion; and the maxim to carry out should be, to let each other alone, throughout the whole length and breadth of the Island. With regard to the Bill now before the House, he might remark, that if Acts of Incorporation were granted to other secret societies, such as the Free Masons and Sons of Temperance, there could be no fair reason for the House to refuse this Bill being carried through.

Mr HASLAM, although not an Orangeman himself, had learned his first moral precepts from an Orangeman; and the sum and substance of what he has been taught, was "to do his duty to his God and to his neighbour." There was nothing blood-thirsty about Orangemen, for they were taught to do their duty to their Roman Catholic neighbours; and, in passing this Bill, no harm could be done to the Colony; he, therefore, should cordially and cheerfully support the second reading.

Hon Mr THORNTON supported the amendment for the three months reading. The hon. the Col. Secretary had, during the course of this debate, ridiculed the religion which he (Mr. T.) professed; but the hon. the Col. Secretary was one of the last men that should presume to attack any man's religion. In fact it was generally found that those who knew least of religion, or had little religion about them, were the loudest talkers, and the first to attack any and everybody. So far as he (Mr T.) was concerned, he was willing to allow the fullest liberty in these matters, but he could not act consistently with his own convictions if he did not vote against the further progress of the Bill now before the House.

Hon Mr LONGWORTH was of opinion that too much religious feeling had been introduced into the question now before the House. The whole debate had been too strongly tinged with this feeling. He believed that there was nothing at all detrimental in the Bill, now before them, to either Protestants or Catholics, nor that any thing that could be possibly construed as contrary to right and justice. It proposed the invasion of no man's rights, civil or religious; but it simply asked that the Orange Lodges might be allowed, under the shelter of the law, to protect their own interests. There was nothing in the application inconsistent with the constitutional law of Great Britain, their Mother Country, and he should, therefore, support the second reading.

The question was then put that the Bill be read a second time this day three months. Upon a division the following members voted:—

For the three months adjournment—Hons. Messrs. Coles, Kelly, Thornton, Beaton, Warburton, Hensley, Messrs. Sutherland, Sinclair, Howlan, and Conroy—10.

For the second reading—Hons Messrs Gray, McAulay, Col. Secretary, Davies, Laird, Pope, Longworth, Kaye, Messrs Green, Duncan, Haslam, Howat, Montgomery and Brecken—14.

The House then divided upon the main question, when Mr. McLennan's vote was added to that of the majority, making fifteen for the second reading and ten against it.