

of the Government of the country? Was ever such a treacherous act committed before in any British country? You will search in vain for an instance in the past, and I trust that this will not furnish a precedent for the future. Under the circumstances I regret that I am unable fittingly to express my abhorrence of what has taken place. I trust that hon. gentlemen will take the will for the deed and give me credit for the desire to use whatever language the vocabulary of this House will permit in order to express my abhorrence and disapproval of these hon. gentlemen's action. I trust, Mr. Speaker, that under the circumstances we shall be permitted to stand guard here from day to day, over the rights of Parliament and the liberties of the people, until we have formed a strong, stable and effective Government. Sir, when we see the great party which Sir John Macdonald led to victory in 1891, with an overwhelming majority, to-day shattered, torn, divided by dissensions, weak and paralyzed, we know that there is but one source from which that strong and effective Government can be formed, and that is by the hon. leader of Her Majesty's loyal Opposition. The hon. member for West Assiniboia (Mr. Davin) claims a monopoly for his friends of all the loyalty that is going. Sir, is it loyalty for the majority, the active part of a Government, when engaged in discharging Her Majesty's business, to rebel against Her Majesty? Talk of loyalty! Loyalty must begin at home. You must be loyal to the institutions under which you serve and to the country you belong to, otherwise your loyalty is, at the best, only lip-loyalty. Sir, Her Majesty's Opposition share in every sentiment of loyalty that may be in the breast of any good citizen of Canada; and I believe that Her Majesty's institutions would occupy a firmer position in Canada, were the administration of the Government now in the hands of the loyal Opposition led on by the first man in Canada to-day, the hon. member for Quebec East (Mr. Laurier).

Mr. COCKBURN. It is to me a source of much gratification to find such exuberant declarations of overflowing loyalty coming from the lips of the hon. member for North York (Mr. Mulock). And I am sure that it must be a source of unfeigned pleasure to all of us to see on the part of Her Majesty's Opposition such an exhibition of loyalty as that to which they have just treated us and which has forced them to constitute themselves the special guardians of the liberties of this country and the guardians of the privileges of every citizen of the Dominion. I only regret that our country has been so unappreciative of their efforts as not to have understood apparently the depth of the feeling that moves them, and has not set sufficient value on their exuberant loyalty to send them here in larger numbers to protect the constitution. Their loyalty seems to-day, however, to be centred, to a very

Mr. MULOCK.

large extent, on the hon. gentleman who leads this Government. I must say that, for my part, hearing the member for North York (Mr. Mulock) dilate on the many noble qualities which characterize our Premier, hearing him declare that for the last thirty years our Premier has filled every office under the Crown, to the greatest satisfaction of the country and the benefit of the Dominion, I fail to understand how, in the name of common sense, he can ask us to refuse the request of our Premier for a two days' adjournment. If the First Minister has given us for thirty years the strongest assurances that he has the welfare of his country at heart, if he has risen superior to all temptations and stands before the country with an unblemished reputation, how can the hon. member for North York (Mr. Mulock) ask us for one moment to believe that this same First Minister desires a two days' adjournment in order that he may give license to conspirators. The supposition is monstrous and absurd. If we will only bring a little common sense to bear on the question, we shall easily arrive at a reasonable conclusion. If it is so necessary that this House should be in session every day to watch what is being done by the Premier of this country, would it not be well that some self-sacrifice should be made by Her Majesty's loyal Opposition, and that the proposal should come from them that we should sit here, not only on Friday and on Monday, but on Saturday and on Sunday as well? It is surely a religious duty to watch the interests and the rights of our fellow citizens. We are sent here for that purpose; and if we cannot trust the Government for two short days, surely it becomes us not to leave them free on Saturday and Sunday to further the work of the supposed unhallowed conspiracy. I cannot but regard the action taken by the leader of the Opposition as a tactical blunder, for I can assure him that if he will press his resolution to a vote, he will rouse such a feeling on the part of the Conservative party, under the present circumstances, as will show the whole country that the confidence of this House still remains with the Conservative party.

Mr. LISTER. It seems to me that several of the gentlemen who have spoken misapprehend the position of the Opposition and do not appear to thoroughly understand the question which the House is now discussing. It is not a question of expediency; it is not a question of antagonism to the present leader of the Government or to the Government as it at present exists. It is a question of law. It may be that in future years such a good, noble and upright Government as we have to-day will not be in existence. It may be that such a Government will be here as we shall not be in a position to trust; and if you once change the law of Parliament by breaking the well established rule on this occasion, on some