

Mr. Doyle answered that he did not know what the member for the county of Halifax said on the subject. He was not responsible for the remarks of that gentleman; but the remarks of the member for Sydney had given him grounds to state the feeling of the Halifax constituency and of every constituency in the Province at the heinous charge made against them at that meeting. Old slang and slanders had been revived and a portion of the people had been denounced as little better than so many rebels. He heard members of the house speak of the meeting with indignation and the feeling was extensively participated in by a large majority of the people. To speak boastingly of loyalty was as out of place among a British people, as for a female to boast of virtue. It might be supposed that a parade would not be made on the subject, except parties were liable to suspicion. The member for Sydney described the member for the county of Halifax as having been the head of a party which had hunted up grievances. The member for Sydney might be justified in making the taunt because that party had defeated the government of which the hon. and learned gentleman was a member in a former House of Assembly. Whether the grievances were real or not, whether they were founded in error or not, the decisions of the British cabinet told the people of Nova Scotia that the result should be the present constitution of the province. If that government had not hunted up grievances, that gentleman and his colleagues would not now be embarrassed with the story of constitutional government. They would not be standing in self-defence saying to the house that if they should be defeated they would retire; they had been defeated repeatedly on former occasions—on the principle of he who fights and runs away may live to fight another day, which another day the house never saw.

The Johnston government, which resisted the final assaults of responsible government, appealed to the people in 1847. The election went against them. Mr. Johnston held on to power until the next meeting of the legislature.