

of Dominion officials. During the late *regime* my constituents were most wantonly outraged by the Inspector of Weights and Measures, who treated them as though they were the inhabitants of a conquered country, confiscating their weights and measures in a most tyrannical and offensive manner. Representations to that effect were made to me by the late lamented Col. Pritchard, of Wakefield, Messrs. C. Devlin and Prentiss, of Aylmer, and most of the leading merchants of the county. I did all in my power to obtain redress for them but unhappily without effect. I hope that, in the future, nothing of this kind will occur. It may be said, that this is a small matter, and unworthy of the attention of this House and the country. But I maintain, that any matter that affects the rights, privileges, and liberties of my constituents, or any portion of the Canadian people, is not too small to engage the attention of the members of a free Parliament. The thirty shillings, which Hampden was called on to pay as his share of the ship money, was a small matter; but it was the principle which troubled him. To use his own words, he could lend his money as well as another, but he feared the curse invoked in Magna Charta, on anyone who should palter with the rights and privileges and liberties of the English people; and so, for this thirty shillings, for the principle involved in this payment, he threw himself across the pathway of a despotic monarch, of a haughty aristocracy, of the minions of a court, and cheerfully gave his life for the rights and liberties of the land he loved so well. And so I, too, fear the curse invoked on all hon. members of Parliament who shall palter with the rights, privileges, and liberties of their constituents. A curious custom prevails in the English Channel Islands, called the *clameur de haro*. It was ordained by Duke Rollo of Normandy, that if any of his subjects were wronged they might appeal to him and his successors for all time to come, until the final judgment day. Mr. Freeman tells us, in his history of the Norman Conquest of England, that when William the Conqueror was carried to his rest in the great Abbey of Caen, a Norman Knight, Ascelin by name, barred the pathway of the procession, and claimed

that he had been unjustly deprived of the land on which the Abbey had been built, and at the grave in which the Conqueror was to be laid he made his appeal to Rollo. And these fierce Normans, who had stormed the heights of Hastings, and slaughtered King Harold and his fighting men, and conquered broad England, halted before the open grave, and the appeal to Rollo was heard, and the wrong was righted, before the stark King could be laid to his rest. And to-day, in the English Channel Islands, if a subject of Duke Rollo is wronged, he calls on his Prince for aid and succour, and his cry goes up through the dim centuries, and the Prince hears his cry, and comes to his rescue, and though his followers were down in the press of battle, and his successor the Queen of England, rights the wrong done to the subject of Duke Rollo, and so we trust it will be in every English land until the final judgment day. And so my constituents being wronged, appeal to this Parliament, which represents all the traditions and privileges of the English Parliament from the beginning to the present day. It is this principle of justice, of liberty, and regard for law which forms the basis of the English system. It is this principle of liberty and justice, and equality of all before the law, which makes us to differ, as Lord MacAuley tells us, from the serfs who crouch beneath the sceptre of Brandenburg or Braganza. I was told only the other day, in a sneering manner, that this was a small matter and unworthy of the attention of the House, because only a few poor miserable hunters and fishermen who were concerned. This was not strictly true, although I believe that many poor hunters and fishermen have been wronged, for my constituents are as substantial and well to do a body of people as are in the Dominion; but if this statement had been correct, if these people had been poor and miserable, so much the stronger the reason why their member should defend them. If they were rich and powerful they might defend themselves. But, Sir, I would say as Touchstone did of Audrey: She may be a poor thing, but she is all mine own. It would be a base and infamous thing in me to desert those, who have stood to me in storm and sunshine because they were poor and unable to defend themselves, to allow their rights and