

CANADA.

of the other night were a stain and disgrace on the history of the province, and the longer they thought of it, the more deeply would they perceive and feel the stain. He would not say a word to excite warm feeling, because he deprecated it. He was sincere when he said that he had arrayed himself on the side of peace and order. He hoped honourable members near him were as sincere when they made the same declaration. He thought if all honourable members had acted with as much sincerity as he did, peace would have been restored before now. He, for one, deprecated the stoppage of public business; it was bad enough to have been turned out of the House in the barbarous manner they had been, but it would be a thousand times worse if it went abroad that a better class mob, sustained by the connivance at least of a yet better class, who, if there was anything in their professions, should have shown a better example, should interrupt—and that they themselves should be in such a state of ferment as not to be able to proceed with the business of the country. There were some measures of little importance which ought to be put off; but the great measures by which the ministry were to stand or fall ought to be proceeded with, so that the country could judge of the honourable gentlemen opposite by their measures, and say whether or not they should retain their places. He should not longer detain the House, but it was due to the country to explain the principles, and to announce the constitutional working of responsible government in the midst of this excitement. He hoped that members on both sides of the house were in favour of peace, and he thought there would be no objection to an address simply in favour of peace and tranquillity without discussing exciting questions which could well be postponed, and ought to be subjects for future discussion.

*Mr. Badgley* said, that there was no honourable member more desirous than himself of keeping peace, and more determined not to be prevented from the open and fearless expression of his opinion by any intimidation or threat. The honourable member for Sherbrooke had alluded to certain individuals who were in confinement; he (Mr. B.) must state distinctly that he thought the detention of these gentlemen in confinement was most impolitic and unjustifiable; the sitting magistrate declared that there was sufficient in the affidavits to justify him in committing the prisoners, and he ought therefore to have committed them. He believed that the great cause of the continuance of the disturbance was the detention of these men without their having been committed. The honourable member for Norfolk complained of the presence of the soldiers in the building; but who put them there? Who asked for them? Had any member been prevented from the performance of his duty so as to render necessary the presence of bayonets? It was true some members of the House had been grossly outraged by a crowd collected in front of the government house; but why were not these people driven away and prevented from assembling. The law gave sufficient power to the authorities; why was not that power employed? He (Mr. B.) cared not for mobs, or for bodies of armed men: he came there to perform his duty, and he would perform it fearlessly and boldly. The honourable member for Norfolk said that it was unconstitutional to petition the Queen.

*Mr. Boulton* denied that he had said it was unconstitutional: he had said that they had a right to petition, but he had asked if it was not tacitly destroying the system of responsible government.

*Mr. Badgley* continued.—Did the honourable member mean to deny that it was the right and privilege of every subject to address his Queen, when the occasion called for it, in a proper manner? Was he to be told that the inhabitants of a British province had not a right to appeal to the British Sovereign for protection. He believed the honourable member would not repeat such an assertion, which was an insult to the British population of the province. He (Mr. Badgley) was prepared to do anything—to risk his life if need be—in maintaining the peace of the city, and was prepared to give the Government every assistance with his heart and hand; but he would not be cajoled into the expression of an opinion like this without due time for consideration. He would resist any attempt like this to put down the minority.

*Mr. Baldwin* rose to explain why he did not object to this resolution, whilst he had objected to the honourable member for Sherbrooke speaking on the preceding morning. He deprecated yesterday, and he still deprecated, any discussion for the present of the recent calamitous occurrences. When the proper time arrived he should, he hoped, be able to justify the course the Government had adopted; but this address expressed, and was intended to express, no opinion concerning the conduct of the Government. It was simply a declaration of the determination of the House to support the head of the Government in the preservation of the public order. The honourable member for Sherbrooke had read certain letters, and alluded to the treatment of the parties who had been arrested. He was not aware of any attempt to deal with those parties contrary to the ordinary course of the administration of justice: there was not and could not be any such desire on the part of the Government. He was not, of course, minutely acquainted with the steps taken by the magistrates. Any delay in the examination had been caused by the excited state of the town yesterday; but the proceedings were in progress, and he doubted not that the accused were by this time either discharged or committed.

*Sir Allan MacNab* desired to assure the honourable member of his readiness to support Her Majesty's ministers in an assurance to his Excellency the Governor-General, that the House would unite with the Government and himself in any measure for the security of the public peace. Every member of the House, he felt sure, was prepared to vote for it. He (Sir Allan) would be proud of an opportunity of seconding such an address; but if the honourable gentleman supposed that they were to be drawn into the adoption of an address like that proposed, without any notice or time for consideration, he was asking too much. The honourable members opposite might, doubtless, have their views of the unfortunate occurrences which they all deplored so