

ted, perhaps very unjustly, to do an injury to the parties who are interested. I will suppose a case. I will suppose that litigation has been commenced purposely to prevent the parties entitled to an act of incorporation from getting it. Should the existence of such litigation have that effect? I do not think it should; and if there was any doubt as to *bona fide* litigation existing with reference to the subject of this Act of Incorporation, there would be no difficulty in providing that it should not affect those suits. If I had been a member of the Committee, it is the course I would have recommended; but I do not think the bare fact of litigation pending ought to be sufficient to justify the rejection of the Bill, because that litigation may be frivolous and vexatious. The Private Bills Committee does not sit as a court to take evidence in such cases under oath, and consequently they might very easily be led astray. I do not take any interest in the question, but it strikes me that the report should not be let go as it is.

Hon. Sir ALEX. CAMPBELL.—I do not see that the language of the report can do any injustice to the parties engaged in the litigation; it only says that the litigation is pending, and that it might possibly be affected by the passing of the Bill. It cannot, I think, prejudice the parties to the litigation. But this is not the only reason given. The Committee say that the preamble is not proved, and the Chairman is right in saying that the rules of the House require them to state the reason of it. It seems to me that they have done their duty, according to the rule of the House, and that their report should be sustained.

Hon. Mr. BELLEROSE.—I am happy to have heard the Chairman of the Committee take the position he has taken, because he has furnished this hon. House the best proof that my statements were true. The hon. gentleman has not been able to establish that any good evidence had been given before the Committee to justify the course adopted by them. I challenge any gentleman to