

In the session of 1844 the government brought down a civil list bill which was attacked vigorously by the opposition. The measure, before it passed, was considerably shorn of its main features by a number of amendments in committee. The debates on the bill were carried on with much heat. Mr. Dodd (afterwards judge), replied to Howe. In the course of his speech he made some sneering remarks about the opposition which were warmly resented by Mr. Doyle, who said "The term was not original to the honorable and learned gentleman; it had been used on the floor of the house by one whose fame was not limited to the soil of which he was a native, and who did not apply the term to the honest intelligent constituents of the member for the county of Halifax, he applied it to other kinds of meetings which had now received the approval and protection of Lord Falkland's government; one of the members at least, who if they had submitted the bill before the committee in a manner consistent with the expression in the opening speech would not only be a wreck but blown off the surface, not by a side wind but a wind blown from all sides.

That gentleman spoke of the late Metcalf meeting which he (Mr. D.) admitted possessed a portion of the opulence and intelligence of the community, but when he heard it asserted that they were justified in their proceeding it became him to make some reply.

Hon. Mr. Dodd denied that he or the government had given any opinion respecting the meeting. He spoke of it, whether justified or not, as having a right to express views on political questions. Mr. Doyle said that he would not have spoken only for the eulogy which the hon. and learned member had paid to the meeting, and only that he seemed to throw the shield of government over the proceedings.

Mr. Dodd explained that he alluded to the meeting in reference to what the member for Halifax (Mr. Howe), had said on the subject, and stated that the government had nothing to do with the matter.