

was admitted to have a claim to an office, or a right to be shoved up into that refuge for the destitute—the Legislative Council. How many of the members of that body could get the confidence of a constituency? In fact, liberals themselves considered it, as at present constituted, a mere delusion, and a sham.

Hon. Mr. COLES—It was not so when it rejected your constitutional bill.

Hon. Mr. HAVILAND—Yes! the Council was not permitted to pass that Bill, which had for its object the exclusion of all officials but two from the House. We had a beautiful specimen of the liberality of the late Government, when Mr. Clark was publicly dared to give his vote, and made to sign an apology, which placed him in such a position that he could not, on that account, face a constituency. The hon. member had said, that the people would not have returned the members of the Government, if they had taken office, and gone back for re-election. The reverse would have been the case,—as a proof of this, I will mention, that while of our party all the members of the Government have been re-elected, of the minority the hon. member is the only office holder, out of three members of the late Government, who was not rejected. As to the opinion promulgated by the hon. member, Mr. Whelan, that the Government had violated the provisions of an Act of Parliament, I will merely observe, that legal opinions, emanating from his side of the House will be received with more deference than at present, when his party shall have succeeded in having an Attorney General on the floor. The only guide to Sir Alexander Bannerman in the formation of his Government in 1851 was to be the well-understood wishes of the people, as expressed through their representatives. That system we have, and if the present Government does not give satisfaction to the country, we can change it for another; but hope never to see such a mongrel as the last. The objection, that the people had now no voice in the appointment to office, because the parties appointed, not being in the Assembly, had not to go back for the approval of their constituents, might have had some weight under the old election law, but in the law of 1856, any member holding any paltry office, a Road Commissioner for instance, can take any departmental office without vacating his seat; for instance, the hon. member, Mr. Thornton, is a Road Commissioner; now, people might have every confidence in him in that capacity, who would not approve of him as a Treasurer or Colonial Secretary. As long as such a law is on the Statute Book, it is a mere farce to talk about going back to be re-elected. Great stress has been laid upon the Government appointing their supporters to office. I deny this. The moment an adverse vote declares that the Government has lost public confidence, it goes to the wall. It is more pure than the late Government, and indirect and immediate responsibility approximates more nearly to British than American institutions; and I feel assured, that it will work

more satisfactorily to the country. At present the people have more control over the public servants than they had under the late Government,—under which one official became security for another, so that if any complaint of misconduct was preferred, the members of Government had a direct interest in checking investigation, and securing the delinquent; but now no member of the Executive, nor any member of the Government side, will become responsible for any public officer. As to the absence from the Speech of allusion to the introduction of specific measures, it is not to be expected, when it is considered how short a time the present Government has been in office, and how their time has been occupied by affairs requiring immediate attention. The Speech does, however, allude generally to measures to be submitted.

Hon. Mr. COLES—Notwithstanding all that has been said about Mr. Clark's apology, and the disparaging comments which have been made with reference to his conduct in making it, I contend that it was creditable in him to have acknowledged his error when he voted by mistake. The explanation was voluntary, and the Government have made use of it for the purpose of inducing the exclusion of public officers from the House. I have heard of apologies more humble than Mr. Clark's, and made within the last fortnight. (Name, name.)

Hon. Mr. HAVILAND—I never would, and never have eaten humble pie. I did say, and now repeat, that the Governor acted unconstitutionally in dissolving the late House. I accepted a seat in the Council at the wish of other members.

Hon. Mr. POPE—The amendment carries falsehood on the face of it. There is no such law as stated. The hon. member, Mr. Coles, may well talk of Responsible Government, as a very fine thing when he worked it, when his connections were shoved into office. He was unable to have an Attorney General in the House, and so had to look to the other end of the building for one. Nearly all the late office-holders were rejected candidates, as the Attorney General, the Commissioner of Public Lands, the Registrar, and the Postmaster General. Was that Responsible Government?

Hon. Mr. THORNTON—The late system worked pretty well, but I did not approve of it altogether. I should prefer to have the Attorney General and Colonial Secretary in the House, which, however, I do not wish to see crowded with office-holders. The opinion of the people on the subject might have been tested by the acceptance of office on the part of one member of the Government, and his remission to his constituents, who would thus have an opportunity of manifesting their opinions in a constitutional mode. At present there is no responsibility.

After a few unimportant remarks from one or two members, the Address was reported agreed to without amendment.

The division stood as follows:—

YEAS—Hons. Messrs. Gray, Palmer, Laird, Longworth, James Yeo, Haviland, Pope, Messrs. Davies, Douse, McNeill, Montgomery, Holm, Howat, Bamey, Sinclair, John Yeo.—16.

NAYS—Hon. Messrs. Coles, Kelly, Wighman, Thornton, Whelan, Messrs. Conroy, Cooper, Doyle, Knight, McDonald, Sutherland, Walker.—12.