

the Apostles of Peace, harmony, and conciliation an answer so couched as to be eminently calculated to renew those sources of acrimonious debate which they condemned so much in the past. (Hear.) He argued that the question was not one merely for consideration of the Local Legislature. If this constitution was to work well, there must be on the part of the Local Governments a perfect independence of the Central Government and any interference with this should be guarded against by the Parliament of the Dominion as well as the Local Parliament. He denied that it was essential that the Central and Local Governments should be in harmony. As a matter of fact, there was no such harmony so far as Nova Scotia was concerned and but for efforts of an extraordinary character there would have been a similar diversity with regard to the Government of Ontario. He admitted that the honourable gentleman opposite did not, because he was a minister of the Dominion, abnegate his rights as a citizen of Ontario; but the question arose how far he could act as he did during the late election, without being liable to the charge that he was using his power as a minister of the Crown to influence the election. And the case was worse when the two Premiers made an alliance to carry the election in the interest of the two Governments. But as regarded the visit of the Minister of Justice to his own (Mr. Blake's) constituency on the day of nomination, it did him good service, giving him at least one hundred additional votes. He hoped he would always come on such occasions to assist in swelling his majority.

Sir John A. Macdonald—I won't go. (Laughter).

Mr. McDougall said that he had listened with as much complacency as he could command to the references which had been made to himself; but since the gentlemen opposite had taken so much notice of him on this occasion, he thought it well to say a word or two; he would like to know at the outset which of the gentlemen opposite he could look upon as leader of that great party which was organized at the Toronto Convention. The member for Lambton complained of his (Mr. McDougall's) course during the elections. As the Minister of Justice had remarked, if the position of the Government was right, it was their duty to the country, as well as to themselves, to take every opportunity to defend their policy before the people in opposition to the assaults that were made upon it; he had visited as many counties, addressed as

[Mr. Blake (Durham West)]

many meetings as he could; he had a visit from his friend, the member for Lambton, but that member had found his efforts fruitless, and he (Mr. McDougall) was returned for that radical county by acclamation. In other places they had fought the battle, and what was the result. At the Toronto Convention, to which he and his friend, the Minister of Inland Revenue, received so shabby an invitation, they were told that sixty, at the very least, would be elected in opposition to the Government; but our opinion, after consulting the members of the Reform party—the member for Wellington Centre among the rest—was different. They laid their case before the county, and the result was, that instead of sixty opposed to the Government, there were how many? Could they count 16? As to his personal following, he did not desire any; but he would ask the member for Lambton, where was his following? The Government had a large majority of the present House, should have so long as their policy was approved of by this House. So far as himself was concerned, he believed a large majority of the Liberal party in Ontario approved of the course which he, the Minister of Inland Revenue, and the President of the Council had taken, which they had agreed to act with the other members of the Cabinet.

Dr. Parker said the Minister of Public Works had done all he could to overthrow his Liberal friends at the last elections. He admitted Sir John A. Macdonald had a majority in the House, but the Minister of Public Works and the Minister of Inland Revenue had not even a corporal's guard of followers. What he objected to was that there was a compact and arrangement between the two Premiers in regard to the formation of the Local Governments. The proceedings during the late elections in Ontario were without precedent, except it might be in the border countries in the States. He denied that the member for Cornwall ever used any unfair means to secure his support. He repeated that the Ontario Cabinet was brought about by intrigue.

Mr. Huntington thought the debate exhibited something of the spirit of the olden time. At the time of the Coalition of 1864 he had ventured to predict something like what was now witnessed. There had ceased to be a Coalition now. The Liberals who had gone over were virtually members of the Conservative party. The lion and lamb had lain down together. If this great boon of