

cur in any measures which might be required to give validity to that decision."

[The hon. member then read an extract from His Excellency's Despatch in reply, which enclosed a copy of the Resolution passed by the House last session.] I myself considered the resolution of the House pledging the Tenantry to abide by the award was sufficient; but a few days after Mr Palmer remarked to me that he was afraid the Duke might not consider the resolution sufficient, and he accordingly recommended that a *short Act* should be passed to make assurance doubly sure. Ever anxious that his Grace should have nothing to complain of, I cheerfully submitted the Act, gentlemen, for your approval. And on the passing of this Act His Excellency immediately sent a Despatch to the Duke of Newcastle informing him of the fact [The hon. member here read an extract therefrom.] In June his Grace wrote to His Excellency saying that the Commission was granted. You are aware, Mr Chairman, that all Acts or Bills have to go through the printer's hands, and where was the necessity for singling out this particular Act from among all the rest to send home,—especially when his Excellency's Despatch effected all that was necessary. The hon. member is wandering in a maze, when he says the Act not being sent home earlier may be the ruin of the Tenantry. Did ever mortal man hear the like? Why it is the very reverse. The Act was to bind the Tenantry to abide by the award, and so enable His Grace to nominate the Commission. How then can the tenantry be injured by its not yet receiving the Royal assent? On the contrary, they and the proprietors now stand on equal terms. From the first I considered it was premature to pass an Act to confirm an award not yet issued, but in passing it this House erred on the right side, showing our readiness to co-operate frankly with his Grace; and it will be seen when the Despatch is read, the sound reasoning which induced his Grace to consider it premature. To render the award effective and permanently beneficial, various acts will be required, which could not possibly be framed till the award is made. The hon. member in commenting upon the Despatch gave us his inference. When the Despatch is produced in due course, I shall draw mine. He touched upon the probability of the Commissioners throwing up their commissions. I would say to the hon. member that from what I can learn his acts are all tending to this to him desired consummation. No doubt he ardently wishes it. He first opposed the resolutions, and when he thought they would likely effect some good, he voted for the Address praying for the Commission. And from his present conduct, it is evident that he knows where the shoe pinches. The bitterest foe the tenantry of this Island ever had, could not strive more diligently than he is doing to bring injury and ruin upon them, and to invalidate all our efforts on their behalf. The hon. member's motives are very apparent, and cannot deceive many.

Hon. Mr. COLES.—The hon. member seems to feel the prick of the thorn much more than I do. I think, Mr. Chairman, I have touched him in the right spot, for I never saw him so humble. He knows that he has to answer to the country for the deception practised with respect to this Commission. I opposed the resolutions submitted by the hon. member because they contained a reflection on the late Government about the Land Purchase Bill. I voted for the address, and also for the Act to give effect to the award of the Commissioners, though with reference to the latter there appears to be some difference of opinion in the Government, for one member of the Executive has declared that he never expected it would pass at home. The hon. member for Belfast speaks of frivolous objections; but if we turn to his complaints against the late Government we will find that they are frivolous also. He censured them for their vote to repair Government House; we shall soon see what the amount appropriated for that purpose last summer will be. From the hon. member's statement in reference to the delay in giving notice of the opening of the Court, there appears to have been some difference between the Commissioners and the Government. With respect to the order to furnish information to the delegates, I did not say it was not given, but that it was not attended to. The hon. member's state-

ment about the missing journal is not altogether correct. I wished to obtain it, and went to the Clerk of the House, who informed me that it was not in his office. It turned out that it was at the Col. Secretary's house, and the Commissioners having inquired for it too, it was sent for. But supposing the Col. Secretary had been greatly opposed to the Commission, what would have been the result? That which I complain of is that the journal in question was taken out of the Clerk's office. The hon. member also states that every document necessary was furnished to the Court; this, however, cannot be correct, for Mr. Hensley never saw them; and if it had been true Mr. Thompson would not have come to me at a late hour the night before he delivered his address, inquiring if I could not do something to furnish him with statistics. I only spoke from what this gentleman stated to me, and it is somewhat singular if they were furnished that neither of the counsel saw them. One member of the Government says the Census was before Mr. Thompson; but how could a stranger in the country be expected to turn his hand to every thing without assistance. They endeavor to show how favorable they have been to the tenantry, by dwelling on the fact that they employed counsel for them; and left the proprietors to provide their own. But, Sir, I understood that they did not retain counsel at all until they heard that the proprietors had done so, and then they telegraphed off to Mr. Thompson, for they very well knew that if they did not provide counsel they would incur severe censure. The hon. member for Belfast may say that he gave the counsel written notes, but did he come forward before the Court and show by despatches and other documents that the quit rents were never given up, and furnish other evidence respecting the questions in dispute. I do not state that the Commissioners said anything against the Government for the course which they pursued, and I believe they would not, but this they remarked that unless for the information given by myself and others opposed to the Government they would have been left in ignorance of the real questions at issue. I believe that some of the supporters of the Government came forward and gave evidence, because, I suppose, they felt like ourselves that something ought to be done more than the Government were doing to furnish the Commissioners with information. But what did this hon. gentleman, this distinguished member of the Government of which we have heard so much, say before the Commission? Why, on one occasion he asked how it was that the late Government did not purchase the Selkirk estate! Now, Sir, I would like to ask what that had to do with the question before the Court! The hon. member Mr. Yeo, also appeared before the Commissioners, and I admit gave a very fair statement, considering the position which he occupies as a land proprietor; but he said nothing in favor of the tenantry. It is true the leader of the Government likewise came forward, and another of his colleagues; yet this was not until a meeting of delegates from different Townships was held, and resolutions of censure against the Government were passed. When one member of the Government was asked before the Court his opinion respecting the land question generally, he said he had given his sentiments on the subject so frequently in the House of Assembly that he thought it was unnecessary to give them here. But the officials of the Government were allowed to come forward and give their evidence, one of them stating that the tenantry ought to pay from 20s to 30s an acre for their land. The hon. member for Belfast says that one of the Macdonalds, of the Treadie estate, agreed to the Commission. Sir, we do not know who has signed this document agreeing to the Commission; it is not here.

Hon. Mr. HAVILAND.—It is in possession of the Imperial Government.