

and some six or seven who admitted their guilt and were sent to Bermuda?—No REPLY.

Col. PRINCE then said, "Will the hon. Attorney General East, answer the questions seriatim? I will read them to him again or place them in his hands if he pleases, and I hope he will answer them as candidly as he did that of the hon. Member for Frontenac.

Mr. LaFontaine.—The questions have been asked and answered over and over again. If the honorable gentlemen wish to open the debate again, they are welcome, but the questions have been asked over and over again.

Mr. Baldwin.—Yes, over and over again.

Colonel PRINCE.—If the honorable gentleman will only answer those questions, so that I can inform my constituents, I will promise him not to speak on this question again during the whole session.

Mr. LaFontaine.—They have been asked and answered during the debate before, and they need not be answered now, unless the honorable gentlemen wish to debate it again.

Col. PRINCE.—Then I must take it for granted, that the Attorney General refuses to answer them. I understand that he will make no answer to them."—[*Montreal Gazette*, 7th March, 1849.]

Can it for a moment be supposed, that if the Ministry could have answered—"No: we do not intend to pay Rebels!" these clear and decisive questions would have remained for a moment unanswered?*

II. One or two of the speakers, more honest, or less cautious, than the rest, boldly avowed that Rebels would be paid, without considering it necessary to gloss over or justify it.

1. In the debate of the 20th, Dr. LaTerrière, M. P. P. for Saguenay, and a supporter of the Ministry, thus spoke:

"He would pay ALL who had suffered by chance of war, OR ON THE SCAFFOLD. The majority of the people had pronounced in favour of the measure before the House; and, in fact, the Administration could not reject their legitimate offspring."—[*Montreal Pilot*, 21st February, 1849.]

2. The Hon. Henry John Boulton, in his speech of the 22nd February, already quoted from, while introducing the amendment to the Resolutions which was adopted by the Ministry, announced that

"HE PROPOSED TO PAY THE LOSSES OF ALL THOSE WHO HAD NOT BEEN CONVICTED OF HIGH TREASON, OR BANISHED TO BERMUDA."—[*Montreal Pilot*, 23rd February, 1849.]

3. The Hon. Wm. H. Merritt, President of the Council, in his Circular of the 6th

March, avowed his disapprobation even of the limitation made by Mr. Boulton:

"Although the Government approved of Mr. Boulton's amendment, which excludes those who were sent to Bermuda, I WAS PREPARED TO VOTE FOR EXCLUDING NONE. The principle of paying those losses once admitted, no distinction should be made at this late day. After a general amnesty has been proclaimed, no man should be proscribed for the opinion then entertained."—[*Montreal Pilot*, 30th March, 1849.]

Unless these gentlemen have adopted as a maxim that "language was given us in order to conceal our thoughts," I am at a loss to know what other interpretation can possibly be put on their declarations, than that every one—rebel or loyalist—was to be paid, "except," in Col. Prince's words, "the very few who were convicted by the Courts Martial, and some six or seven who admitted their guilt, and were sent to Bermuda."

Some advocates of the Ministry point triumphantly to the exceptions given in the last sentence, as abundant evidence that there was no intention to indemnify Rebels; but I think Your Lordship will see that, on the contrary, it is the very strongest argument for the existence of such an intention. "*Exceptio firmat regulam*" is a maxim familiar from our school-days. The exception proves the rule—and the very provision by Legislative enactment against the payment of a *certain class of Rebels*, clearly proves that every man engaged in the Rebellion, and not so excluded, must be held fully entitled to indemnification, on the same footing as the loyalist.

It may legitimately be inferred, from the after introduction of this amendment, that it was originally intended to pay even those whom its provisions went to exclude. But we are not obliged to resort to mere inference on this subject; the declarations in the Legislative Assembly in relation thereto, are sufficiently clear and explicit.

During the debate of the 15th February, Dr. Nelson, one of those afterwards excluded by the amendment, as having been sent to Bermuda, admitted in the presence of

*See Postscript, Page 17.

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