

ward as one evidence that the League was unconstitutional.

Mr. BRECKEN wished to know why, if the League had acted constitutionally, an appointment made not long since, had been cancelled, when the pressure of the Opposition was brought to bear.

Hon. Mr. DAVIES.—The League could not be blamed for the acts of some of its members.

Hon. LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT denied that the Opposition had had anything to do with cancelling the appointment referred to. As soon as the Government ascertained the facts they cancelled it.

Hon. ATTORNEY GENERAL would confirm what the hon. Leader of the Government had said. The Opposition had not had the slightest influence. As regarded the appointment of Mr. Balderston he thought that it was perfectly justifiable. His appointment was not revoked, for he himself resigned. The late Government by their remissness in putting the law in force were in a great measure to blame for the League disturbances. He would not, however, say that they were not desirous of settling the land question, and in sending for the troops he believed that they did the best they could at that time. He had last year refused to join in a vote of censure on them for that act.

Hon. Mr. DAVIES.—The League was at first started by the Conservatives. Mr. Pope at that time Colonial Secretary, told the people at Peter's Road that they could expect no redress until they took the matter into their own hands. This was the beginning of the affair. Mr. Pope had been home in England about the fifteen years Purchase Bill, and endeavored to impress the Home Government with the idea that the people were very desirous of having that Bill passed, and that if it were not passed he would not be answerable for their acts. It was quite natural that he would endeavor to make his words true.

Hon. LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION was surprised at the diametrically opposite views regarding the League held by the different members of the Government. Notwithstanding what had been said regarding the cancelling of the appointments, there was strong presumptive evidence that the Opposition had some weight. It was he believed the case that the securities of one of the gentlemen appointed had justified before the Chief Justice, before the appointment was revoked. The hon. member for Belfast had attempted to throw odium upon a gentleman not a member of the House. This was not right. It was an abuse of the privilege or freedom of debate, when a person who was absent, and therefore unable to defend himself was maligned. The hon. member had better have left that gentleman's name out of the debate. He was, however, of opinion that the statement which had been made was incorrect. Mr. Pope never went to England about the fifteen years Purchase Bill. He went home to get the Award confirmed long before that Bill was brought forward. That delegation, which was sent in 1863 failed, and the fifteen years Purchase Bill was passed subsequently, while the Tenant League disturbances did not take place till 1865. In that year about the time the cele-

brated procession passed through the City, a Bill was passed to assist the tenants in purchasing their lands. He (leader opp.) had in a speech delivered on that occasion given his opinion of the League policy thus:—

"They would obtain more benefit by sending their friends to this House to carry out constitutional measures such as the one now proposed, than by joining the Tenant League, if we might judge of the principles of that Body by the wild and seditious articles published in its organ *Ross's Weekly*. The principles advanced in that paper, if persisted in, were such as would end in a rebellion. The Tenantry were greatly deceived if they imagined that they could obtain redress for their grievances by combining to resist the payment of rents. They might depend upon it that all the power which Queen Victoria could command, would be exerted to maintain the laws in their integrity. Did they suppose that they would be allowed to ride rough shod over the principles of British law and the rights of property? If so, and the principle of repudiation were admitted, they would next refuse to pay their shop accounts and every other lawful debt."

The speech of the present leader of the Government on the same occasion did not harmonize very well with his, (leader opp.) He spoke thus:—

"Hon. Mr. COLES was sorry that such principles should be enunciated by the Solicitor General of any Colony. They were too warlike for the atmosphere of this House. The measure under consideration might be a sister of the Land Purchase Bill, but it differed as much from that Bill as one sister did from another. If the Land Purchase Bill had not been opposed—if its principle had only been carried out, there would have been no need of this measure, nor of the Fifteen Years' Purchase Bill."

That was all that he said, and it showed pretty clearly that the Government did all they could under the circumstances. Subsequent to this time the meeting was held at which Mr. Balderston figured, and the record of which—anything hon. members might say to the contrary notwithstanding—had cost him his office. The hon. member for Belfast had better employ his spare time during the recess, in effecting the escheat of the different estates on the Island—Melville's, Fanning's and Winsloe's, for instance—and if he succeeded, a grateful tenantry would not wait for his death to erect a monument to his memory of the finest Perian marble, and in the first style of sculpture.

Hon. Mr. DAVIES rose to confirm his previous statements, though he would assure hon. members that it was no pleasure for him to show up the acts of the late Government. He had shown that the object of that Government, through its Colonial Secretary, in stirring up dissension in 1864, was that unless some such measure as the Fifteen Years Purchase Bill was carried—which had been sent out by the proprietors—his statement to the Colonial Minister might come true, namely, that there would be an outbreak in the Colony. Meetings were held at several places which were encouraged by the Government, at least he (Mr. D.) had heard so. Here was an account of the proceedings of the meeting held at Peter's Road. [The hon. member then read some resolutions which the Reporter has not obtained.] After this the people in that neighborhood heard that the Sheriff was going down that way; and he believed that a cannon was actually got there and kept several days, and that some persons were taken and maltreated. When the Government heard of these proceedings, why did they not put a stop to them