

constitutional liberty, either in England or in Europe! It is my opinion, Sir, that had not Providence guided our glorious deliverer, the great and good King William, we should on this day be enjoying civil and religious liberty after the manner in which those blessings are enjoyed in Roman Catholic Spain. Constitutional Government in Britain dates no further back than the days of William and Mary. The revolution of 1688, is generally termed in the history of our country, the "glorious" and "fortunate" revolution—the Papal power was at that era annihilated in England—a legitimate sovereign was then driven from the Throne of his ancestors, for having attempted to subject the people to a popish government; then was it solemnly declared by the nation, that "it had been found by experience that it is inconsistent with the safety and welfare of this Protestant kingdom, to be governed by a popish Prince, or by any King or Queen marrying a Papist;" and when the throne was tendered to William and Mary, and the succession regulated, it was expressly on condition, that if at any time the sovereign should be reconciled to, or hold communion with the See or Church of Rome, or profess the popish religion, or marry a Papist, he or she should be excluded from, and be for ever incapable to inherit or enjoy the Crown, and the people should be absolved from their allegiance. Is there, Sir, in the "declaration" or "obligation" which I have read to this House, from the Book of Constitution of the Orange Institution, any thing inconsistent with the Bill of Rights?—Orangemen seek to maintain the Protestant succession, upon the principle laid down in that great declaration of the undoubted rights of Englishmen. For so doing they are denounced by Roman Catholics, and told that their aims are illegal. I am well aware, Sir, that Orange societies are obnoxious to Roman Catholics, but this I cannot help. The Protestant succession is also obnoxious to them, and shall that be abolished to please the subjects of His Holiness the Pope, who should have no jurisdiction within this realm? To assert that Orange Institutions are illegal, is to assert that which cannot, in my opinion, be proved. In Upper Canada, a large proportion of the population are Orangemen. The Attorney General of that Province, in the visit of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, namely, the Hon J. A. McMillan, to, I believe, an Orangeman. I would ask, Sir, is it reasonable to suppose that a Crown law officer of Mr. McMillan's standing, would identify himself with an "illegal association?" Is it not within your knowledge, Sir, and the knowledge of this House, that the Hon J. H. Cameron, the Grand Master of the Grand Orange Lodge of British America, was received at the Court of Queen Victoria, as the bearer of an address from the Orangemen of Canada; and that Her Majesty has on several occasions, graciously received addresses from the Grand Orange Lodge of British America? Can it be supposed that Her Majesty would so recognize "illegal organizations?" It will probably also be alleged that Orangemen are disturbers of the peace. The Belfast riot, instigated by Roman Catholics in this Island in 1847, at which a poor old Protestant was miserably murdered, caused the organization of Orange Lodges among the Protestants of this Colony. Is there any evidence to prove that orangemen have conducted themselves disorderly in this Island? I answer, there is not. On the contrary, they have, in my opinion, been the means of preserving peace in the Colony. Before these Institutions were organized, it was no unusual circumstance to hear of Protestant Scotchmen being maltreated on the public highways by Roman Catholic rowdies.—Since their organization we have heard of no such occurrences. Again, I shall be told, that orangemen desire to deprive Roman Catholics of those rights to which the laws of the realm entitle them. Such is not the fact. The obligation not to marry a papist, say our opponents, is very objectionable. Truly, it does not become a Roman Catholic to urge this objection. Marriage of Roman Catholics with Protestants are strongly discouraged by the Romish Church. It is asserted by others that the Orange Institution is a secret association. What, Sir, I would ask is the

Romish Church with its Confessional? If it was proper to incorporate the Romish Bishop in Charlottetown, as was done last Session, surely, it cannot be improper to incorporate the Grand Orange Lodge. Orangemen contend it is their right to demand that they be not ruled over by Roman Catholics. It is to avoid this indignity that so many of the Protestants of this Island have banded themselves together. It is all very well for British men in the House of Commons to pander to the popish party in that House. In Britain, at the present day, there is no fear of a Romish Government; but in this Island it is very different. In Britain, Romanists form about one fifth of the population; here they form seven sixteenths of our people. The twelve members who constitute the Opposition of this House, are the representatives of constituencies essentially Roman Catholic. Under these circumstances, Mr Speaker, the Protestants of this Island would prove themselves unworthy their ancestors, were they not to exert themselves to the utmost of their ability to prevent this dependency of the British Crown from falling under the rule of the Romish priesthood. I trust that in the introduction of this subject, I have not expressed myself as to wound the feelings of the Roman Catholic members of this House; and that the discussion which will probably follow, shall be characterized by moderation. I have purposely avoided all reference to the dogmatic teachings of the Romish Church, as being calculated to arouse ill feelings. But, Sir, it may be that I shall yet be driven to enter upon that unpleasant part of the subject. I would wish to avoid it; but if occasion requires I shall not shrink from it.

Hon Mr HENSLEY—I am prepared, Mr Speaker, to oppose the motion, and am truly sorry that ever such a motion was made in this House. Some very respectable persons may be connected with the Orange Institution in this Island, but this does not prove it to be a necessary organization. In one of the documents read by the hon Col. Secretary, some principles are enunciated with regard to charity. I think those subscribing to it could take a much higher charter to show them their duty in this respect than the Orange charter. The hon member has stated that the Protestant religion is the basis of the constitutional liberties of Britain, and the origin of her greatness. This I myself believe, and every Protestant believes; but Britain does not owe what she is to the Orange association. If it be necessary to commemorate the memory of King William, it can certainly be done without the obligation of an oath. I see no necessity for such an organization in our midst as the Orange Institution. I do not imagine we are in so great danger of Roman Catholic ascendancy, as some appear to suppose; but if there was really danger, it could be warded off in other ways more proper than by encouraging Orange Lodges. It is well known that such associations as these lead to the organization of counter societies; and judging from other places, we have reason to fear it will not be otherwise here. I am as sincere a Protestant as perhaps any one, but see no necessity for introducing the question of Orange Lodges in this House. It is bringing religion very low, if we have to take oaths on the subject.

Hon Mr WARBURTON—I am also opposed, Mr Speaker, to this petition going to Committee. This Orange organization, however respectable some may be who are connected with it here, has been the cause of a vast amount of disturbance and bloodshed in my own country. I do not know why this King William should be held in remembrance. I do not wish to speak disparagingly of him as an individual, but cannot see there is any occasion to revere the memory of an individual who was just about as religious as the Colonial Secretary of this Island. We know that laws have been passed to suppress Orangemen.

Hon Col SECRETARY—Not to suppress Orangemen, but processions.

Hon Mr WARBURTON—It is well known that when the Prince of Wales visited Canada, he refused to land at a certain town because the Orangemen wished to form in