

the House. After it was printed the leader of the Third Party suggested to me that there should be a little further change, and that suggestion I thought reasonable. I mentioned it to the First Minister and he thought it reasonable, and consequently I presume that everyone will think it reasonable. Therefore, with the consent of the House, I will now read the motion proposed to be submitted, and ask the permission of the House that it be substituted for the one of which notice has been given, as follows:—

That an humble address be presented to the Queen's most Excellent Majesty in the following words:—

MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY,

WE, Your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the commons of Canada in Parliament assembled, desire most earnestly in our own name and on behalf of the people whom we represent to renew the expression of our unswerving loyalty and devotion to Your Majesty's person and Government.

We have learned with feelings of entire disapproval that various public statements have been made calling in question the loyalty of the people of Canada to the political union now happily existing between this Dominion and the British Empire and representing it as the desire of the people of Canada to sever such connexion.

We desire, therefore, to assure Your Majesty that such statements are wholly incorrect representations of the sentiments and aspirations of the people of Canada, who are among Your Majesty's most loyal subjects, devotedly attached to the political union existing between Canada and the mother-country, and earnestly desire its continuance.

We feel assured that Your Majesty will not allow any such statements, emanating from any source whatever, to lessen Your Majesty's confidence in the loyalty of your Canadian subjects to Your Majesty's person and Government, and will accept our assurances of the contentment of Your Majesty's Canadian subjects with the political connexion between Canada and the rest of the British Empire, and of their fixed resolve to aid in maintaining the same.

We pray that the blessings of Your Majesty's reign may, for your people's sake, be long continued.

Mr. Mulock: My object in submitting this motion is not for the information of the hon. members of this House, or for the information of the country. I think for anyone to suggest that such a course as this was necessary for such a purpose would be to offend the intelligence alike of the House and the country. We may have our party differences in regard to what we deem to be the best methods of promoting the public welfare, but we also have, as I trust and believe, a common bond of union—the great principle of British connexion; a principle which, I submit, controls all political thought in Canada; a principle before which all other questions dwarf almost into insignificance; a principle which is, and I trust will continue to be, the touchstone of political thought in Canada. That principle has developed for us a position here which we enjoy as citizens of the greatest empire known to civilisation, an empire which, I think, to-day commands in a greater degree than in any other period in the history of our country the admiration and the love of the whole people of this country, and which has, I believe, developed amongst us a common standing ground and common cause which makes the hearts of the whole people beat as one. I repeat, therefore, that I do not make this motion for our information or for the information of the country, believing it to be but a feeble echo of the sentiments which are entertained by the whole country; nor do I make it out of any individual or party considerations, nor because of any circumstance which has occurred, or which is occurring, within the borders of Canada; but I make it for the purpose of removing, if possible, misapprehensions, and contradicting statements that have been made and which perhaps have already been of great injury to Canada, and which, if allowed to remain any longer unchallenged, are calculated to be injurious to our best interests. I am sure that, in an assemblage such as this, it will be unnecessary for me to observe any particularity in regard to what I refer to. We are all observers of current events, we are all readers of the literature of the day, and we have had the opportunity of observing the trend of the American press during the last few months. In that press you find a doctrine set forth as if it were the expression of one mind, but appearing in the whole of the press of the United States and being in that way spread far and wide. You find it asserted there that the political institutions in Canada are broken down, that we are a people divided against ourselves or amongst ourselves, that we are torn apart by internal dissensions, that race is set against race, creed against creed, province against province, and the Dominion against the Empire; and that this has created a feeling in favour of independence or annexation which is now only awaiting the opportunity to take practical