

the public interest, and yielding to the pressure of circumstances which cannot be controlled, must yet bear, for a time, the annoyances incident to connexions that success may finally justify, but which are never forgiven should they fail. If, then, some of my old friends, and the friends of my colleagues, have been displeased with the anomalies presented by the coalition, we have felt them at every step. But a coalition, particularly in a new Country like this, has its advantages as well as its evils; and, as the House seemed to think so, and as it sanctioned the connexion, after a full explanation of the circumstances under which it was formed, we have felt bound to go on, giving to Lord Falkland our best assistance, whatever might be the sacrifices which public duty called on us occasionally to make of our personal feelings. It is not my intention to go again into the question of whether it was wise or necessary to form the coalition: I wish only to show that, being formed, it has acted fairly and honorably towards those to whom it appealed for support. It has been said that we hold our places on sufferance—this is true, but the same may be said of any Administration. In England a Government has no lease for a term of years—it holds on until the opposition are strong enough to displace it, and until a combination of able men, acting upon antagonist principles, are prepared to take possession: our duty to each other, and to the Nobleman at the head of the Government, compels us to do the same—and it is to ascertain whether the opposition which has met us here, and which we have no desire to shrink from, has either the strength or the settled principles of action likely to embarrass us, that we now make explanations, and court discussion. Our anxious desire has been to forget the past, and to make the coalition, into which circumstances forced us, a source of benefit and advantage to the country. Our wish is, to reflect truly to this House, and to the Province at large, the enlightened views and principles upon which we are directed by Lord Falkland to conduct his Government: a man more sedulously devoted to the interests of this Country—possessed of a clearer head, and a better heart, and more deeply concerned in the success of the great experiment which the Mother Country is trying on this Continent, is not to be found in Nova-Scotia, even among those who drew their first breath on the soil. His Lordship is desirous to give to this House every power and privilege which the Commons, in a British Colony, having a Representative Constitution, ought to enjoy: but, at the same time, he is determined duly to guard the prerogative committed to his charge, and the wise application of which is one of the first duties of a statesman. The Government of the Country, then, is not one looking to particular interests and parties, but one which regards all the people as members of a great family, who should be drawn together by a system of conciliation and justice. There may be times when all that is desirable cannot be accomplished, but we have endeavoured to do the best we could under the difficult circumstances in which we were placed; and, notwithstanding the spirit of hostility evinced in certain quarters, I think I may safely appeal to the House, and ask if there are many