

tions of the present opposition. The facts are as follows : I did propose you as leader of the Ex-Ministerial party, at a meeting of that party numerously attended. It is worthy of remark that Mr. Rolph did not attend that meeting though notified, and that Mr. Foley who acts in concert with him declared that he could not act under you as leader. Mr. Merritt also opposed your nomination. Both these gentlemen have since gone over to the McDonald-Brown party. My object in proposing you as leader was that in my opinion you were the only man likely to be able to unite the liberal conservatives who were pledged to secularization, with the Reformers, and thus effect an arrangement under which the affairs of the country could be carried on. I need not assure you, that at the time, I had no idea whatever that Sir Allan MacNab, who had been sent for by the Governor General as we all knew, would be willing to form a Government on the basis of carrying the secularization of the Clergy Reserves. When I found that Mr. Morin had entered into negotiations with Sir Allan MacNab for the formation of a Government on the basis of carrying out the measures of the late Government and that both parties were most anxious that the ex-Ministerial party in Upper Canada should be parties to the coalition, I was as much surprised as you, or any other individual in the country could be. I shall, however, at all times maintain that the course taken by Sir Allan MacNab was excusable under the circumstances. A considerable number, probably a majority of the party with which he acted, had come into Parliament pledged to Secularization, and, moreover, the public opinion of the country had just been unequivocally expressed on that as well as the other questions at issue. It was no doubt a great sacrifice of feeling for Sir Allan MacNab to make, but in the state of parties in the House, I do maintain most unhesitatingly that no Government could be formed except by means of coalition of some kind, and in point of fact, there is no very material difference between the present coalition, and any which could have been formed under