

opinion of the amended Bill as contrasted with the Bill as brought in. That hon. gentleman expressed his satisfaction with the improvements in the Bill, so far as it went, but he said it was still one he could not support. It must be, I think, a very small matter for congratulation to the Government to see that some highly independent members among their usual supporters are dropping quietly away from them on this occasion. It shows the inherent badness of this Bill, and I think if the hon. gentleman had bestowed that attention on the address of the hon. gentleman from DeLanaudiere which it deserved he would hardly have spoken in the way he did of the action of the Opposition in the House of Commons. As for that statement of his that the Opposition would have gained more by reasonable and temperate criticism than they have gained as it is, all I can say is it is not too late now to give those additional advantages which, he says, we might have gained by more temperate language and language more satisfactory to his party and friends. If there is anything held back, it is not too late to give it to us: let us have it by all means. I felt it necessary to express my opinion upon those parts of the hon. gentleman's speech, because he himself certainly put about as much force into them as, I think, he is capable of, and, no doubt, he did good service to his friends, and to the Bill itself. His speech was an able and powerful one, but I think there is an answer to that part of it at all events. But there is another portion of the hon. gentleman's speech to which I can refer with unmixed satisfaction. I listened with great pleasure to the hon. gentleman's statement respecting the Indians of Canada. It was a most interesting and gratifying statement, and all I can say is it was only impaired by the last remark which the hon. gentleman made on that subject. After having told us to what degree of civilization the Indians on these reserves had reached, and having told us of their successful agriculture, of their beautiful and well furnished houses, of their tasteful music, of their acquirements in the arts, and in other ways—

HON. MR. PLUMB—They have two splendid brass bands; they play splendidly.

HON. MR. HAYTHORNE—I was just about to refer to their taste for music, which the hon. gentleman informed us of. Having asserted that these men were fully fit to exercise the rights of free men, he admitted at once that there was one point on which they could not be trusted as other men are—that is they could not, if I understood him, be trusted with the administration of their own affairs; that in money matters they could not be trusted to look after their own interests; that in point of fact they still require a trustee. I think that these are, if not the *ipsissima verba* which the hon. gentleman used, the tenor of his remarks about the Indians. I say they were exceedingly satisfactory and interesting but they lack one thing—they lack the important point that these Indians, civilized as they were described in all other respects, were not able to take care of their own property. It seems to me that it is almost blameable in a party that have been in power so many years as this Government have been, to allow these Indians to remain in this highly civilized state without doing anything for them. It seems to me that the remains of these nations of Indians which have arrived at this pitch of civilization should have come to their friends in Parliament to be emancipated from all thralldom; that they should have been admitted into the comity of colonies and made a real part of the Dominion. That I think was the natural course to pursue, and had that course been pursued four or five years ago, and had those Indians been living amongst us showing that they were competent and willing to take part in the government of the country and to share in the responsibility of citizenship, as white men do, then we could very fairly and properly have expressed our willingness to adopt, as free men among ourselves, those who are willing to share our responsibility; but as I say, and as the hon. gentleman informed us, these Indians lack one important feature which was to qualify them—that is, that they could not take care of their own affairs; that they needed a trustee yet, and if so, that man must exercise great influence on their thoughts, feelings and actions in the crisis of a general election. I am assuming that the Indian of Ontario generally is as