

"such an exhibition of weakness to which limits must be
 "placed, and he must say in reviewing all that had oc-
 "curred since the commencement of the session—looking to
 "the little progress the government had been able to make in
 "the business of the country—looking at what had occurred
 "on each of the last four nights, to the fact that ministers had
 "on each of the four nights to be left in a minority, consider-
 "ing that that minority was smaller in relation to the majority
 "than the minorities they had been in at the commencement of
 "the session—adverting also to the fact that they had received
 "the support of those who, not having general and unlimited
 "confidence in the government, yet had given to the govern-
 "ment a cordial and honorable support (cheers) on every oc-
 "casion in which it was consistent with their public prin-
 "ciples to give it—adverting to all these considerations he
 "must say that, in his opinion, the time was come when it was
 "incumbent on ministers of the Crown to withdraw from the
 "responsibilities which office under such circumstances im-
 "posed on them."

I desire to add nothing, continued Mr. Hincks, to these remarks of Sir Robert Peel.

Nor shall I trespass much longer on the time of the house.
 Having tendered my resignation I am now like any other
 member upon this floor, and know nothing at all of what is
 going forward. But I desire to say that at this crisis in the
 affairs of the country—and I look upon it as an important
 crisis—I do trust public men will be influenced, not by selfish
 considerations, but by a patriotic desire to carry out those
 great measures which the interests of the country demand
 (hear hear). For my own part, for the present at all events,
 I am desirous of taking my seat by my honorable friend
 the member for the County of Lincoln (Mr. Merritt), who has
 been described rather wittily by a newspaper in the City
 of Toronto as a "governmental impossibility" (Laughter.)
 In thus retiring from Official life, it would of course be absurd