

ment again with still one seat vacant. Why did not the hon. gentleman insist upon the office of Solicitor General being filled before returning? He did not. The office is still vacant. The hon. gentleman does not think that it is of such a character as to lead to a revolution in the Government, and so he comes back again. Why, then, can any one believe that the hon. gentleman wishes us to take him seriously? He says that seven members retired from the Administration because one seat in the Administration was, for a time being, vacant. Has the hon. gentleman ever been member of a Government before when a seat was vacant in the Administration? Why, Sir, it is important that the seats in this House should be filled; it is important that the people of this country should be represented on the floor of this Parliament. What has the Government done, what is he responsible for having been done during the past ten days? Why, to denude this House of a number of its members and transfer them to the other Chamber. How then, could the hon. gentleman sit in the Government with a number of seats vacant in the Senate for years? The constitution provides that there shall be a certain representation for each province, and for each division in this Chamber. Has the hon. gentleman taken care that that clause of the constitution is complied with in that regard? Not at all. He has wholly disregarded this provision of the law, notwithstanding his devotion to principle on this one occasion. Now, Sir, let me say that the Prime Minister the other day declared that the statement made by the hon. gentleman on the floor of this House was uncalled for, that it was undignified, that it was unfair. Has the hon. gentleman apologized to the Prime Minister? Why is it that the hon. gentleman has not given to the House some explanation of the character of this document which he read? Upon what terms has he gone back into the Administration again? How is it that the man whose political life he undertook to take a few days ago, is the one under whom now he is ready to serve? What change has taken place in the circumstances? Sir, the hon. gentleman has acted very much like a kangaroo: driven to stand at bay, he has undertaken to disembowel the Government, and, failing in that, he has returned, and is ready to serve in it. Sir, the hon. gentleman says the Government is completed, they are all back in their places again. The hon. gentleman says the whole Conservative party is united. I suppose he counts the hon. member for West York (Mr. Wallace) a nobody, he counts for nothing. I supposed the hon. member for West York was a member of the Conservative party. I did not know he had been read out, I did not know that the hon. gentleman had authority to excommunicate the hon. member for West York from the party. And yet the hon.

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell).

gentleman declares that the whole party are united in this House, and so stands before the country, and that we on this side of the House are greatly disconcerted because we see the Conservative party united. Well, Sir, it does not disconcert me, and I am quite sure it does not disconcert any of my hon. friends sitting beside me, or behind me, to see the Conservative party in this House united. We rather prefer to see them in that condition than making the exhibition which they did during the past week. We do not think it redounds to the honour of Parliament, or to the credit of the country, to have such an exhibition made on the floor of Parliament as the hon. gentlemen have made during the past ten days. Why, Sir, we had a Speech delivered by His Excellency, by the advice of these gentlemen, and before this House had any opportunity whatever of considering that Speech, seven of those gentlemen who had advised it, withdrew from the Administration. The hon. gentleman may think that he is devoted to constitutional principles, but it seems to me there was a very wide departure from one essential principle of our constitutional system when the hon. gentlemen, under these circumstances, withdrew from the Administration. Sir, the hon. gentleman admitted that he had misgivings as to the chances of the party with which he is associated, succeeding in the next election. His misgivings were so great that he retired under unusual circumstances, accompanied by six of his colleagues. He has strengthened the Administration, so he tells us, by bringing in one prominent gentleman of the Conservative party, and putting out another. Now, Sir, does the hon. gentleman, under these circumstances, expect to succeed? Within the last few months, five constituencies represented by supporters of the Government in this House have become vacant, and four of the five have returned opponents of the Administration. That is the prospect that the hon. gentleman has before him, and so it does not disturb us on this side of the House in the least to find the supporters of the Government standing by them. It does not disturb us in the least to find those who left the Administration returning to it again; it does not disturb us in the least to find them supported on their return by the late High Commissioner. We are perfectly willing when the time comes to meet those hon. gentlemen on the hustings, and we have no doubt that the verdict of the entire country will be what it has been in the constituencies in which elections have recently been held. The hon. gentleman will find that the exhibition which he has made and the humiliation and degradation to which Parliament has been subjected by the course which he and others have taken during the past ten days will, notwithstanding the aid of the late High Commissioner, prove disastrous to them when the day of trial comes.