

in such a manner. He was forced to return to the idea of some new light having been suddenly visible. He was charitable enough to suppose that the ministry had made a mistake, and were now conscious of their error; but admitting this was the case, he complained of such want of foresight, especially when the position in which they were placed was expressly brought under their notice last session. It seemed, however, that it was now determined that the House must do nothing, except some two or three little measures which were to include a large grant of money. In truth, it was plain that the ministry had withdrawn its confidence from the House, perhaps because the House has plainly withdrawn its confidence from them. He had heard it rumored that when the bill allowing the Canadian Parliament to deal with the Clergy Reserves question passed the Imperial Legislature, there was an intimation thrown out in high quarters that nothing ought to be done without an appeal to the people. Who would like to know whether that rumor was well founded. Whatever was the reason which had decided the ministry, however, trifling with the interests of the country ought not to pass without remonstrance. How did they propose to get out of their dilemma? The President of the Council said it was better to do right late than never; but he should remember there was a tide in the affairs of man which should not be neglected; and as the ministry had failed to dissolve at the proper moment, they ought not now to make all the interests of the country stand still on account of their blunder; having gone on so far they ought still to proceed. From the two most important measures before the country the House was especially intimated; yet, whatever may be said upon the differences of opinion which certainly prevailed on the Clergy Reserves, there was no pretence of any such difficulty with respect to the Tenure, for with regard to that the opinion of all Lower Canada, except as to details, which could not be decided at the polls, was thoroughly united with the exception of a few hundred individuals. As to the Reserves, he would have preferred an appeal to the people at once, though he had no doubt their decision even now would be given in the way he thought just—he meant for their secularization; but he knew that that question would be more or less subjected to other considerations, involving especially the question of confidence in the ministry; and he was well assured that in this connection it would be constantly asked at the polls if any confidence could be placed in a finance minister of the crown who openly declared to the people that he had a right to become a money jobber and deal in the public stocks for his own profit.

Mr. HINCKS believed the gentleman who spoke last had been himself compelled to admit that a great deal was to be said on each side with regard to the settlement of the Reserves, and admitting all that was said about the ministerial changes of policy to be correct—which he, of course, denied—the arguments of his colleagues the night before were an unanswerable reply to the objections made on the other side of the House. The gentleman opposite believed that a dissolution was absolutely necessary after the representation bill had passed; but now that there was a prospect of such a dissolution taking place, at once they turned round and said the House ought to legislate. The member for Peterboro had not treated fairly his expression of opinion

last session. When the question about dissolution was first put to him he gave his impression on the spur of the moment, not in a way to pledge the Government.

Mr. CAUTION was it not distinctly stated that there should be another session of this parliament.

Mr. HINCKS admitted that; but all the statements were made with reference to circumstances which might render a change of resolution necessary. The passage of the franchise bill he repeated made a dissolution altogether inexpedient till after it could be brought into operation; and though government were responsible, doubtless, for that bill, yet any other members of the House might have proposed amendments to make it sooner operative. As to the triumphal progress spoken of, at the time it took place no resolution had been arrived at; and he held that the speeches then made were quite consistent with the present action of the Government. He had never said that the secularization was to take place next session; and in his journey he had freely conversed with his friends as to the probable necessity of postponing legislation on that subject till another session, before which an appeal to the people should take place. The question, too, was still in the hands of the people of the country, and therefore, the delay could be of no consequence, no new life interests could arise to be protected under the condition which requires them to be preserved, and the secularization could only take effect upon revenues yet to fall in. He might here state that it was the intention of the government to propose a division of the property sworn as the Reserves among the several counties in Upper Canada in the ratio of their population, to do with it what they pleased for any objects which the law permitted them to expend money upon. Had government dissolved before, there must be another dissolution immediately on the Franchise bill.

Dr. ROBIN, who was very distinctly heard said that notwithstanding the strictures of the member for Peterboro, there was clearly a great difference between a bill that had merely passed that House and one that has become law. The House had previously passed several representative bills which had failed; but this certainly imposed no obligation to stop legislation. As to reading newspapers, he had done so merely to show what were the opinions of some persons and how it had suited them to charge those opinions. He affirmed that when he had travelled through Upper Canada last summer the question of time never came up in connection with secularization, and as to the doctrine that the country could never be without a Parliament, did it not strike that gentleman opposite that this could not be strictly true, inasmuch, as there must always be a period between the dissolution of one house and the election of another? It was a mistake to suppose that the difficulty now felt arose from the policy of the government—it would be much more easy for the government to go on with the business of the Legislature. The real difficulty was to be found in the extension of popular liberties as the consequence of the measures of the administration. Had the House met in February, he must have confessed that he expected immediate action in England on the Legislative Council, and it would have been immediately and justly said on the other side why not wait for that change. The breaking out of the war had however deceived that expectation, and for his part he did not think he could

properly have asked the ministry in England to risk the fate of Europe for the sake of a change in this country of the character of that in question. He had no doubt however, that in spite of the delay, that which the House had asked would at last be given, by the Imperial Government, with the readiness already shown in making other concessions. At any rate the ministry must comfort themselves with the conclusion that if they had asked otherwise than they had done, they would have been exposed to still more formidable because more just charges from their opponents.

Mr. BROWN wished to lead the discussion from the details already discussed to a wider field. He wanted to show why he wanted the amendment the effect of which all understood to be a vote of non-confidence in the ministry to pass the House. He wished for this purpose to compare the promises of hon. members opposite with their performance since they made them. He had afterwards concluded that it was impossible for the present ministry to fulfil their pledges—that the members for Huron and Norfolk, who every body knew had been in extreme opposition to the views of their present colleagues from Lower Canada could not work with these gentlemen for common objects. He did not, however, when he first came into Parliament desire to oust those gentlemen from their seats, and, therefore, he had last session voted against the amendments to the address; but he could not at that time have supposed, that ministers at the end of one session would have found themselves in their present position, totally deserted by the crowds who had worshipped them, and obliged for want of other aid to do the business of defending themselves. Last session they had the majority on division of 24 to 17; now they were on the very verge of destruction; not a single member remaining to defend them, and even the mover of their own address rather excusing and so blaming rather than praising them. The cause of the change was easily traced to the conduct of the ministry themselves. The Lower Canadian view of their conduct had already been discussed by the members from that part of the Province; he would proceed to consider it from the point of sight of the Upper Canadian liberals. He held in his hand a "platform" signed by Mr. Christie, one of the makers of the present ministry. He had no desire to speak disrespectfully of that gentleman, for he believed that he and several others, voted with the ministry from the sincere conviction that they would redeem their pledges, and he for one was quite ready to cease the war between him and them, since they had taken the position where he wished to see them. However the first thing upon this platform was the secularization of the Reserves. Now he set aside all that the President of the Council had said about the Kings and Queens of England for the sake of considering the conduct of the Canadian government, and contended that if the people of Upper Canada thought it would be best to postpone the settlement of this question, they yet could place no trust in the present government. The question first on the platform was made by the hon. member for Norfolk, the great question on which the election turned. In a speech of the hon. member reported in his own paper, the Norfolk Messenger, he stated that a bill to secularize the Reserves would be brought in immediately on the meeting of Parliament. In the same paper it was stated that Mr. Hincks had pledged himself in Oxford to secularize the Reserves by bill.