

responsibility; Mr. Smith, as Premier, having generally assumed the functions of the Cabinet,—witness his conduct in connection with Western Extension—and His Excellency was justified in regarding communication with that gentleman, substantially the same as communication with the Cabinet. Such was usual course in ordinary public matters, and such was the course he adopted in the answer to the previous Address of the Legislative Council, which his Cabinet assented to. His Excellency, however, was anxious that his Council should know the precise terms of his answer before its presentation, he therefore, between twelve and one, forwarded a message to Mr. Smith.

Hon. Mr. BORSFOAN—I would just state that being at Government House between twelve and one o'clock, as a Committee to assemble at what time His Excellency would receive our Address; when I was leaving, His Excellency requested me to forward a note to the Attorney General. I brought the note down and gave it to one of the messengers of the House of Assembly for Mr. Smith; this was at a quarter past one.

Hon. Mr. MITCHELL—And thus it was that, as His Excellency has stated, through accident Mr. Smith did not receive the note earlier.

I take the position then, that from the avowed change in the policy of his government on the question of union; from the nature of the discussion had with his advisers on the subject; from the language which they acquiesced in and endorsed, used by His Excellency in his answer to an Address from the Legislative Council a short time before:—"I rejoice to believe that the avowal of the desire of the Legislative Council, that all British North America should unite in one community, under one strong and efficient Government, cannot but tend to hasten the accomplishment of this great measure;" and from the fact that Mr. Smith did not, when told that His Excellency's reply to this Address would be favorable, seriously object. All these circumstances justified the Governor in believing that the course he adopted, would meet the approval of his Council. His Excellency carried out in his answer, not only the spirit but the terms of his agreement with Mr. Smith, although I admit it was unfortunate that His Excellency did not see Mr. Smith at an earlier hour, previous to presenting the answer. I think any gentleman giving this

Correspondence a dispassionate reading will be convinced that His Excellency kept good faith with his Council, and showed no desire to override the Constitution, or as has been stated, trample it under his feet; and I am sure your honors and the country will see at once, that as between his late Council and himself, this charge does not lie; and I am equally sure that this House and this Country will deprecate the bad taste, the want of dignity and courtesy that has marked the conduct of Mr. Smith and the late Government towards His Excellency.

I regretted very much to hear Mr. Smith, in his Speech yesterday, endeavor to work upon the passions of his auditory, and excite their feelings against His Excellency, by reference to his noble blood, and aristocratic name, as contrasted with his own (Mr. Smith's) humble origin and provincial career, and while boasting of the latter, endeavor to build up his case by exciting prejudices against the Governor. I am the son of a mechanic, and I am proud of it; I admire the men who by their own energy of purpose, raise themselves to position in society; but I none the less respect those men through whose veins course the blood of a long line of noble ancestry, whose names are recorded on the page of English History, intimately connected with events which have rendered Britain illustrious. And while of such is the family to which His Excellency belongs, he need not be ashamed of the race from which he has sprung, and but look back with feelings of pride, participating, in this instance particularly, with the pride of all Englishmen and all English Colonists, to the history and life of his illustrious father. And so far from the antecedents of his family being calculated to prejudice the minds of our people against a gentleman of talent, of position, of honor, those antecedents are calculated to inspire confidence in the statements of His Excellency.

Your honors, not only has His Excellency been made the subject of the most bitter and unscrupulous attack in this connection, but I have heard statements made about this House, and hon. members, that has made my blood fairly boil with indignation. We have been charged with being bribed traitors; and in one instance, with being fiends incarnate. I have heard, by gentlemen on the floors of the other branch, our motives most foully aspersed, I have heard it declared that only five hon.