

Mr. Cuvillier. He claimed as a right to express these reasons, and he believed that a large majority of the members of that House would also support Mr. Cuvillier upon the very same grounds which he himself had taken, and which he had expressed when he addressed the House in an early part of the debate.

Mr. CAMERON said he hoped the discussion was nearly at an end. He had but one single remark to make. There were many gentlemen in that house who were more familiar with the French language than they were with the English, and it would be desirable therefore that those gentlemen should be permitted to deliver their sentiments in the language which is most convenient to themselves; and as Mr. Cuvillier is equally conversant with both languages, it should be an additional reason for his appointment to the Speaker's chair. He believed that although every honorable gentleman might be actuated by different reasons for his vote, the expression of those reasons ought to be freely permitted without offence being taken, when none could possibly be intended.

Mr. HINCKS remarked that he did not consider that any explanation was necessary. He had merely exercised an undoubted right in explaining his reasons for his vote.

Sir ALLAN McNAB said he merely rose to request his hon. friend to withdraw the amendment. He felt perfectly satisfied, whatever were the motives by which hon. members were actuated, that Mr. Cuvillier was the person upon whom their choice would rest. Every hon. member had an undoubted right to explain the reasons of his vote, and it would have been as well if the hon. member from Oxford had gone a little farther, and explained what those principles of government were which he would desire to see adopted in this Province.

Mr. MERRITT replied that they were the principles of the British Constitution, which it was desirable to see established in this country.

Mr. CARTWRIGHT said he would certainly comply with the desire of his hon. friend, and withdraw his amendment, and at the same time he would disclaim all intention of doing any thing which could be considered offensive to any hon. member, and particularly the hon. gentleman who had been first proposed. He had been induced to offer the amendment in consequence of having understood from the hon. member from Oxford that he had ascertained the political sentiments of the hon. gentleman, (Mr. Cuvillier) and that they were such as he stated.

Mr. HINCKS said the hon. gentleman was perfectly correct. He (Mr. Hincks) would pledge himself to the house that he had so ascertained.

Mr. STEELE recommended the avoidance of all angry discussion. Not only the eyes of this Province, but of the whole British Empire are watching the first step to be taken by the united Parliament of Canada, (hear, hear, hear.)

Mr. AYLWIN said he agreed with those who held that a line of discussion, should no longer exist between the interests and feelings of the Upper and Lower Canada members, for he would still take leave to designate them according to their former distinctive titles, any more than that a geographical line of division should still be preserved between them. He admired the candour and good feeling of those two gentlemen who had professed themselves willing to bury all past animosities, and he had no doubt that a disposition exists on the part of Lower Canada to reciprocate that good feeling to its fullest extent. The person selected to fill the Speaker's Chair, should possess

the entire confidence of the house, and had he (Mr. Aylwin) been called upon to propose a gentleman who he believed would possess the confidence of the Lower Canada members at all events, he would without hesitation, have pointed out the Hon. member (Mr. Viger.) However (said Mr. Aylwin.) as I perceive a disposition on the part of the House to vote for Mr. Cuvillier, I am perfectly willing to coincide in that decision. If I were not intimately convinced that the hon. who has been proposed as Speaker, is opposed to the administration of the Governor General, I would oppose his election by every means in my power. We should certainly, if possible proceed with unanimity, but not such an unanimity as will endure for a short time and eventually be no unanimity at all. He (Mr. Aylwin) thought that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Cuvillier) was bound to give an explanation to the House, (hear hear,) and to state precisely what his political views are. For although the Hon. member from Wentworth (Sir Allan McNab) be called a tory he is an opponent of the present administration. He would therefore (although he entirely acquiesced in the decision of the house, if that decision should be in favour of Mr. Cuvillier,) have felt inclined to propose as Speaker of that house, that venerable martyr, that true friend of Lower Canada, the hon. Mr. Viger.

Mr. MORIN said he approved of what had fallen from the hon. gentleman who had last spoken; but at the present moment, and under the present circumstances, it would be injudicious to create vexatious dissensions. It was highly desirable that the principles of the British constitution should be carried into effect in this large Province, and he believed it had been very far from being the case in one part of the Province, at least for a long time. And if he (Mr. Morin) were called upon to say whether he had confidence in the present administration, it is probable that his vote would not differ from that of his hon. friend. We all know that this is a vote of confidence; and my hon. friend is very right in stating, that if he was not convinced of the non-approval of the hon. gentleman (Mr. Cuvillier) of the present administration, he would not vote for him. At the same time, the disclosure of his particular views and opinions might expose the House to embarrassment and confusion, which it is most desirable should be avoided. We should endeavor to act in accordance with the true interests of the country. [Hear—hear.] The reason why he (Mr. Morin) would vote for his (Mr. Cuvillier's) appointment was, because it was his belief that the opinions assigned to him were not different from the truth. [Hear—hear.]

Mr. J. S. McDONELL observed, that allusion having been made to the political views of the hon. gentleman who had been proposed, he certainly thought it incumbent on that hon. gentleman to state explicitly what those were. [No—no.] He (Mr. McDonnell) would certainly vote against his appointment unless he did so.

Mr. SMITH said he perfectly agreed with the hon. gentleman that that house was entitled to an exposition of the views and opinions entertained by the hon. gentleman, but he regretted extremely that the hon. gentleman for Oxford should have made remarks which must be considered out of place at the present period of the session. If, as an hon. member has observed, it would be imprudent for Mr. Cuvillier to express his opinions at this time, he (Mr. Smith) would take care to express his own as soon as that gentleman became the organ of the house, or at least as the Speaker's chair should

be filled. He (Mr. Smith) would freely and candidly avow that he had every confidence in the administration of his Excellency, and he believed, moreover, that if hon. members were disposed to press a question of this nature at the present juncture, a dissolution of that house would follow.

Mr. Attorney General DRAPER said he could not permit the question to be put without offering one observation, although if hon. members supposed that he would be drawn into the discussion of political questions they were mistaken, but he could not sit by in silence and hear that house threatened with a dissolution without expressing his astonishment that an idea of that kind could have taken possession of the mind of any one for a moment. He came prepared to vote for Mr. C. as a gentleman fully acquainted with the business of the station, as also with the two languages used in the house, and moreover of distinguished integrity and impartiality.

Mr. Buchanan did not think the discussion of political tenets was premature; he believed that we were to decide upon our principle of action and that the Executive would conform thereto. He believed Mr. C. would fill the chair creditably to himself and to the house.

Mr. Durand spoke on the impartiality and high character of Mr. C.

Mr. Cook recommended a conciliatory tone in the debate.

Mr. Chesley doubted whether political principles had been correctly attributed to Mr. C. by the hon. member for Oxford.

On the question being put by the Clerk, Mr. Cuvillier was declared unanimously elected.— Mr. C. was then conducted to the chair by Messrs. Morin and Merritt, and after declining the honor as usual in such cases he took his seat and returned thanks in English & French.

Sir Allan McNab then moved that the house do adjourn:

Mr. Aylwin opposed the adjournment. The choice of the Speaker was made and could not be revoked. No act had been done by the Executive in accordance with the rule of opening a Parliament or with the proclamation: until our sessions were opened in due form the house could not adjourn beyond the day. Mr. Aylwin referred to authorities.

The hon. mover said, he had no desire to press his motion: gentlemen of high legal attainments could inform the house on this matter.

Mr. Att'y Gen. Ogden had no doubt of the power of adjournment; the Speaker had been appointed conformably to 33rd section of the Act of Union. It only remained for the clerk of the house to inform his Excellency of the appointment, when the time could be fixed for his Excellency meeting the two branches of the legislature.

Mr. Aylwin read the 33rd section—it did not repeal the common law; it was silent as to the power of adjournment. Lord Coke is an authority for his (Mr. A's) opinion. The house cannot proceed to business nor to an adjournment until the sessions has been duly opened. If they could adjourn for an hour they could for six months.

Col. Prince.—That the house had been called by proclamation to meet the "great men," they had not met them nor knew where to find them: so the members if they did not wish to sit here until to-morrow could go home, and then comes the question of responsible government—(laughter).

Mr. Aylwin replied that it was to settle a principle not to decide an expediency.

Att'y Gen. Draper could see no greater difficulty in adjourning than in sitting here. The sessions had commenced by its first act of electing a Speaker.

Mr. Cartwright.—The house had the power ex necessitate.