

“ It may be premature at this moment to enter into a history of the disallowance of the Oaths Bill, but this much, at all events, it is but fair to every one that I should state, viz., that immediately after I had assented to that Act, I transmitted a certified copy of it to the Secretary of State, in accordance with the instructions by which I am bound on such occasions. That, leaning myself to the opinion, (an opinion founded on the precedent afforded by the Act of the Canadian Parliament, which empowers the Senate to examine witnesses on oath,) that the Act was not *ultra vires*, I accompanied it by a full exposition of the arguments which could be urged in its support ; but on the point being referred by the Secretary of State for the professional opinion of the Law Officers of the Crown, it was pronounced inconsistent with the Act of Confederation, and that, therefore, the postponement of the enquiry, so far as it has arisen out of this circumstance, has resulted wholly by the operation of law, and has been beyond the control of any one concerned.

“ You then proceed to urge me, on grounds which are very fairly and forcibly stated, to decline the advice which has been unanimously tendered to me by my responsible Ministers and to refuse to prorogue Parliament ; in other words you require me to dismiss them from my counsels ; for, gentlemen, you must be aware that this would be the necessary result of my assenting to your recommendation.

“ Upon what grounds would I be justified in taking so grave a step ?

“ What guarantee can you afford me that the Parliament of the Dominion would endorse such an act of personal interference on my part ?

“ You, yourselves, gentlemen, do not form an actual moiety of the House of Commons, and I have no means, therefore, of ascertaining that the majority of that body subscribe to the opinion you have enounced.

“ Again, to what should I have to appeal in justification of my conduct ?

“ It is true grave charges have been preferred against these gentlemen ; charges which I admit require the most searching investigation ; but as you, yourselves, remark in your memorandum, the truth of these accusations still remains untested.

“ One of the authors of this correspondence which has made so painful an impression upon the public, has admitted that many of his statements were hasty and inaccurate ; and has denied on oath, the correctness of the deductions drawn from them.

“ Various assertions contained in the narrative of the other have been positively contradicted.

“ Is the Governor General, upon the strength of such evidence as this, to drive from his presence gentlemen who for years have filled the highest offices of State, and in whom during the recent Session, Parliament has repeatedly declared its continued confidence ? It is true certain documents have lately appeared in connection with these matters of grave significance, in regard to which the fullest explanation must be given, but no proof has yet been adduced which necessarily connects them with the culpable transactions of which it is asserted they formed a part, however questionable they may appear, as placed in juxtaposition with the correspondence to which they have been appended by the person who has possessed himself of them.

“ Under these circumstances, what right has the Governor General, on his personal responsibility, to proclaim to Canada—nay, not only to Canada, but to America and Europe, as such a proceeding on his part must necessarily do, that he believes his Ministers guilty of the crimes alleged against them ? Were it possible at the present time to make a call of the House, and place myself in a direct communication with the Parliament of the Dominion, my present embarrassment would disappear, but this is a physical impossibility. I am assured by my Prime Minister, and the Report of the proceedings at the time bears out his statements, that when Parliament adjourned it was announced by him, as the Leader of the House, that the meeting on the 13th of August would be immediately followed by prorogation ; that no substantive objection was taken to this announcement ; and that, as a consequence, a considerable portion of