

*Mirror of Parliament*, and the first I shall read is that of Lord John Russell. He said:

"If in the course of the observations I should feel it my duty to make to the House, I should pronounce my opinion unfavorable to the Orange institution, it cannot be imputed to me that I do so from any bias of opinion particularly adverse to those societies, because while a member of this House and the Government I have ever been an enemy to all associations of this kind, and have not hesitated in being a party to laws repugnant, even as I am free to confess, to the spirit of the Constitution, with a view to put down associations that I have thought dangerous to that Constitution and injurious to the authority of the Crown."

Sir Robert Peel, another eminent statesman, said:

"I trust that all parties will agree that no separate interests can be served by the continuance of these societies, but that peace and tranquillity will be advanced by their abandonment."

Mr. Hume speaks as follows, of various disturbing societies, among which he includes the Orangemen:—

"The country has thus been torn in pieces by intestine strife. I find that amongst other associations and societies of this kind there have been the Levellers, the Ribbonmen, the United Irishmen, the White Feet, the Black Feet, the Peep-O'Day Boys, and the Orangemen."

He says again:

"The existence of a body on the one side invariably leading to the establishment of a rival party on the other."

In closing his speech he said:

"I cannot too strongly express my conviction of the fact that these Orange societies are illegal, but in their very nature they are most mischievous as tending to disorganize society."

Lord Palmerston, when waited upon by a deputation of prominent persons belonging to the order of Orangemen, said:

"I am clearly of opinion that it would be far better for us to look to the future than to the past; and what, let me ask, is the object, and what are the prospective advantages of this Orange Association? Is it an organization which belongs to the age in which we live? Is it not rather one that is suited to the Middle Ages—those periods of society when anarchy prevailed, and when one body of people were in the habit of arming themselves to resist some outrage or violence committed by another, and this because they felt that they could not depend upon the Government of the country for adequate protection or security? But this state of things no longer exists; and not being an Orangeman myself, I confess I am at a loss to understand the use of the association in the present age."

And what was the reply of His Majesty to the Address presented to him on the conclusion of that celebrated investigation, during the course of which most of the quotations I have made were delivered. He said:

"I willingly assent to the prayer of my faithful Commons for the effectual discouragement of Orange lodges, and generally of all political societies, excluding persons of a different religious faith, using secret signs and symbols, and acting by means of associated branches."

"It is my firm intention to discourage all such societies in my dominions, and I rely with confidence in the fidelity of my loyal subjects to support me in the determination."

Now, Sir, I wish to ask this honorable House what would be the inevitable result of the incorporation of this society, if we have the power to do so, and we make this association legal in the Province of Quebec. I have not, in the course of my remarks, alluded to the history of this institution, nor to the various occurrences—to use the mildest term that comes to my mind now—which have characterized its history in Ireland, England, the United States, and this country. I say that I am not standing here merely for the purpose of raising an alarm when I tell you what I believe will be result if this society is made a legal one throughout the Province of Quebec. I refer hon. gentlemen to the *Toronto Mail* of the 13th July, 1842—and that is not ancient history—and there, Sir, it is stated that in the Queen's Park London East Orangemen assembled in solemn conclave, and declared that they had unanimously resolved to celebrate the next 12th of July in Montreal, and that the Ontario Orangemen will march despite all opposition. This, Sir, is what we are promised. We are notified of it in advance, and this notification being given, what will be the result of these

—Mr. CURRAN.

men coming, not only armed themselves, but joined by other armed men from Buffalo and elsewhere who were appealed to on a former occasion which I do not refer to here. Why, Sir, you will have the whole Province of Quebec—every Irish Catholic of Montreal, every French Canadian Catholic—in arms. You will have the people of Quebec coming to assist the people of Montreal, and men from New York coming to confront the men from Buffalo; and then, Sir, the carnage of the battle of the Boyne will be repeated over again. That will be the result, and hon. gentlemen will be obliged to admit, though they seem to think this a laughing matter to-day, they will be obliged to wring their hands as they did on a former occasion, and to say that they have no power to restrain their followers. I ask in what country is it sought to establish this Protestant ascendancy? Here where we are all living together in peace and harmony. Look at those Ministerial benches. Is Protestantism in danger there? We have the Premier, Postmaster General, and the Minister of Finance of this Dominion, to protect Protestant rights, and if that is not sufficient protection, we have my hon. friend the Minister of Customs, the Past Grand Master of the Orange Order, to assist them. We have my honored and honorable friend the Minister of Inland Revenue to protect us, and, fortunately, we have the successor of the late Sir George Cartier—and who fills his mantle worthily—I say we have him the hon. Minister of Public Works and his colleagues to represent the interest not only of their own fellow countrymen, but of every man who wishes to do what is right and just through the length and breadth of this Dominion. Is this state of peace and harmony going to be disturbed? Are we going to have it marred? Are we going to have this great Confederation, which was founded and brought to its present position of progress and prosperity by the great statesman who sits at the head of this Government—are we going to have the work of his lifetime torn down by a measure merely for the satisfaction of this organization? I say no, Sir, this thing shall not be tolerated. I feel that I can appeal here to those who have read the history of the land in which this organization took its root, and where the great national poet in the anguish of his heart, seeing the horrors that had for years and years been engendered by this and similar societies, exclaimed:

"Erin! thy silent tear never shall cease;  
Erin! thy languid smile ne'er shall increase,  
Till, like the rainbow's light,  
Thy various tints unite  
And form in Heaven's sight  
One arch of peace."

These are the words of our national poet, wrung from him by the sad picture revealed to his poetic eye by the history of his country; and I ask, is it in this land, where Jacques Cartier came and planted the Cross of Christ, and before it had offered up the sacrifice of the Mass—is it in this land, where the heroic De Brabant and his fellow-laborers, the followers of Lyola, consecrated the soil with their martyr blood—is it in this land, where that long line of Irish Priests and Prelates, long before the days of Bishop Phalen and Archbishop Connolly, who did so much to build up Confederation, down to the days of that intellectual Hercules and patriot Priest, Father Dowd—is it in this land, where these men have expended their labors, as many are now doing, to promote the highest welfare of the country—is it in this land, where the Oblats de Marie Immaculée to-day are doing the noble work the missionaries did in the early times, in carrying to the Indian tribes of our great North-West the faith and the civilization of Christianity, to enlighten their minds, to make them amenable to the laws, and to render possible the carrying out of the policy of our Government, that humane policy which is our boast as compared with the policy of other countries—is it in this land of Canada that we are going to plant that tree of bitterness and dissension which has proven so