

introducer of the measure; if he intended to submit to the House the bye-laws of the society, in order that hon members might know whether it purposed having processions or not.

Hon Col. SECRETARY said he knew of nothing in the bye-laws of the association requiring processions, but if the hon leader of the Government was afraid of processions, he might introduce a bill to prevent them, like the Act in force in Ireland.

Hon Col. GRAY thought it would be well to introduce such a measure, and hoped that if he did so, he would have the support of hon members. He would be in a better position to judge whether he should vote for the motion before the House, had he an opportunity of examining the bye-laws of the Orange Institution. He trusted that time would not be unnecessarily taken up with this question.

Hon Mr WARBURTON quite agreed with the hon leader of the Government, that too much time was taken up on this matter; but it was altogether caused by the remarks of the hon Col. Secretary. That hon member had referred to the danger of Roman Catholics obtaining ascendancy in this Colony. The fact that so many districts possessing a majority of Roman Catholics had returned Protestant members, showed that there was no danger on this ground—that they did not seek ascendancy. The hon Colonial Secretary also argued that the Orange Institution would aid in maintaining the connection between the Colonies and the Mother Country. In answer to this, he would only say that the other year, when a war was threatened between Great Britain and the United States, the Roman Catholics of Canada did all in their power to support Britain by assisting in the transport of troops. This proved that they did not wish to rid themselves of the rule of England. It had also been asserted that the Roman Catholics now formed a third party in the British Parliament. He did not see why this statement should be made; it was only a short time since they were allowed to sit in Parliament, and it could not be expected that they would hold very firmly to either party. He would not detain the House further, and would only add that he was heartily sorry this measure had been introduced here, as he felt certain that it would cause disturbance in the Colony.

Mr CONROY rose to express his disapprobation of the Bill before the House. He thought the words employed by the hon. Col. Secretary were a direct insult to the 35,000 Roman Catholics of the Colony. He (Mr. C.) believed that all he could say would not prevent the Bill from passing; but he felt confident that it would never become the law of the land—that such a measure would never be sanctioned under the British constitution. He did not wish his Protestant friends to think less of him on account of what he might have said on this question, because he made quite a distinction between a Protestant and a person called an Orangeman. He looked upon an Orangeman as his greatest and sworn enemy, and very much regretted that there were men in both branches of the Legislature who belonged to the Institution. It was unnecessary for him to reply to the statements put forth by the hon. Colonial Secretary. He would simply say that he never expected it would fall to his lot to sit in the Legislature of Prince Edward Island and listen to gross, and he might say, blasphemous insults against his religion.

Hon Mr BEATON said about one-third of his constituents were Protestants, that he lived on most intimate terms with some of them, and considered them his best friends; therefore he would be sorry to say anything to hurt their feelings. He would endeavour to avoid doing so while he expressed his opinions on this subject. It had been stated that Orange Lodges were established here to resist the encroachments of Roman Catholics. He wished to know whether Roman Catholics were more closely banded together than many Protestant sects. Were not the Macdonaldites, for example, banded together? and would they not support each other if one of them was to offer as a candidate? Roman Catholics were not all on one side, until some of the

recent elections. Their present unanimity was caused by the writings in the newspapers of an official of the Government, one who had directed all his bitter attacks against Roman Catholics. It was his bitter opposition to Roman Catholics which had enabled him to obtain a seat in this House. He jumped Jim Crow against the Catholics, at the expense of the Colony, to the tune of £350 a year. He (Mr. B.) was sorry that this measure had been introduced here, particularly when there was not the slightest occasion for it. He regretted the religious strife existing in the Colony. If Protestants considered their privileges in danger they ought to have associated together in some other organization than that holding the hateful name of Orangeism. He, however, believed that this matter was forced upon the majority by outside pressure—an influence which had shown itself in displacing Mr. Henry Palmer from office in the other end of the building, merely because he did not vote at the last election. Mr. Palmer was a gentleman of very courteous demeanour, and he had been treated very unkindly, as it was well understood when he (Mr. B.) was in the other branch of the Legislature that the Usher was not to vote at elections.

Mr BRECKEN agreed with the hon. member who had just set down in one thing, namely, in deprecating the religious animosity rife in the Colony, as he believed it would be productive of no good. The present discussion, he regretted to say, was more religious than political. He had heard more theology to-day than on any other day of his life. Unfortunately in this Island we had Roman Catholics pitted against Protestants, and Protestants against Roman Catholics. This dissension he wished to see done away with; but it ought to be given up by Roman Catholics as well as by Protestants. While Roman Catholics remained banded together he had no desire to see his friends weakened; he was too much of a Protestant for that. He, however, wished to see the olive branch of peace held out by both parties. If religious dissension was at an end in this Island, he would like to see the Bill in question put under the table. He concluded by stating that he admired the moderation evinced by the hon. leader of the Opposition in his speech this morning, but if his memory served him right, that hon. gentleman had expressed himself differently on a previous occasion.

Hon Mr HENSLEY said he considered it was most injudicious to press forward this measure. It had been stated that Roman Catholics were banded together to keep certain parties, who were now hon. members, out of this House. This could not be said of all Protestant members, for he himself was returned by a constituency, the majority of whom were Roman Catholics; and they had returned him, though they knew his views in regard to the endowment of St. Dunstan's College, and that he was a Protestant, and a member of the Bible Society. They had means of knowing this, as reports respecting him had been industriously circulated amongst them. All that he said in reply to them was, that he was a Protestant, and that he could not be expected to abandon his principles to obtain a seat in the Legislature. This Bill was to incorporate quite a different institution from other secret societies referred to, which were for a benevolent object. This association was a combination against another class of the community, and he believed an Act to incorporate it was calculated to do injury. There was nothing which he disliked so much as religious dissension. He held his own views, but admitted that others might entertain opposite opinions, and do so conscientiously. Evil consequences, he feared, would result from the discussion of to-day.

Mr. HOWLAN offered a few remarks, but before he had fully entered into the subject he was interrupted by a motion of adjournment, which was unanimously carried.

FRIDAY, MARCH 20.

Hon Mr Speaker in the Chair.

It was resolved that the tenth rule of the House be suspended.