

ledge could not come from one who was never a witness, but from those who were witnesses. There was no use in delaying till Mr. Smith could come, as that might not be before a fortnight. He thought that he could go on and bring evidence to show that all these things were an utter falsity. He could show that these things were not only moral but physical impossibilities.

Mr. *Ferres* desired it to be distinctly understood that nothing of all this was to be published at present.

Mr. *Wilson*.—Mr. Brown takes an improper view of the case; every man is to be believed innocent until he is proved to be guilty. The determination of the Committee was to hear first what evidence Mr. Macdonald had to bring; it might be of such a nature as not to require any defence on the part of Mr. Brown.

Mr. *Brown*.—Was it possible that they could have decided on such a course behind his back, and without letting him know anything about it?

Mr. *Felton*.—It was necessary for them to adopt some regular mode of proceeding, or they would never get on. They had decided on regarding him as innocent until he was proved to be guilty.

Mr. *Brown* thought this course a most unfair one. He wished to find out from the Hon. Mr. Macdonald what his grounds for charging him as he had done were, and he was the first witness that he wished to call. Surely the Committee would not refuse to allow him to be heard?

Mr. *Ferres*.—Decidedly.

Mr. *Brown*.—What he asked was this,—There were two matters altogether different; one was the treatment of Mr. Smith by the Commissioners, another was the charge made against him personally that he had been guilty of conduct not only improper but sufficient to condemn him under the jurisdiction of the criminal law of the country. He demanded that the first witness should be Mr. Macdonald, that he might show from the evidence of that gentleman that he was not justified in bringing these charges, as he knew nothing of them himself.

Mr. *Ferres*.—He himself heard Mr. Macdonald say that the House would understand that he asserted nothing of his own knowledge.

Mr. *Brown*.—Mr. Macdonald said that he knew these statements to be true. They must see that it was important that before people could be got together to concoct these charges, Mr. Macdonald should state now on what grounds he is to proceed.

Mr. *Felton* said that he could not sit there and hear such words used. If Mr. Brown had anything to be proved by