

Mowat could have paid us. Of course, we know, that if Mr Mowat was really anxious to cut the connection with the other party and to come out squarely as the Mr. Mowat of ancient days would have done, he would not have hesitated to have passed a Declaratory Act—a familiar form of legislation, by the way, in his Assembly, defining the meaning of the law. (Laughter). Catholic journals say the Act means what it says, or that it ought to mean what it says, that is, that every Roman Catholic is presumed to be a supporter of Separate Schools. We say he should be presumed to be a supporter of Public Schools. Mr. Mowat could have settled that by one stroke of his pen, but, instead, he has gone through the farce of asking a Court of Law to say what this Act means. Perhaps my Conservative friends will say "You are destroying the party; you are not going to get any Reformers to leave Mr. Mowat, the Reformers will hang together to support Mr. Mowat, and the end will be to split up the Conservative party." I hope that it will not be so. I hope that the Conservative party will stand on the platform of Equal Rights. (Cheers). I do not care whether the Reformers do or do not stick to Mr. Mowat. An honest man be he Reformer or Conservative, won't stick to Mr. Mowat, or Sir John Macdonald or anybody else in this matter. (Renewed cheers.) If public opinion is not ripe; if people are not sufficiently educated to put mutual trust in one another, by and by, when they see we are honest, when they see we are not serving a double purpose, but have only a single eye to the good of the country, men of all classes will rally round us. (Loud cheers.) At present they distrust us. A few days ago I read a letter which gave an account of a curious incident which happened in West Lambton during the recent local election in that constituency. Forty Conservatives in one polling sub-division put their names down to vote for the Third Party candidate, and forty Reformers. When in the evening the ballots were counted it was found that only forty votes had been cast altogether for Mr. McCree. (Laughter.) The Conservatives say the Reformers went back on them, and the Reformers return the compliment. It is quite plain, however, that forty men on one side or the other did not keep their pledges, and it just shows the feeling of mistrust which prevails on account of the political differences which have hitherto insanely separated the people of this country. (Hear, hear.) So much for what we have done; so much for our reasons for doing it, and now have we any reason to disband to night (Loud cries of "No.") Have we any reason to continue the fight? ("Yes, yes.")