

ment, thus justified the course he had then taken :

"He would resist oppression again, as he had done before, when the laws no longer protected him."—[*Montreal Pilot*, 14th February, 1849.]

7. In the debate of the 22nd, the Hon. Henry John Boulton, M. P. P. for Norfolk, and a Ministerial supporter, spoke of the same Dr. Nelson as one—

"Who, although he stood up in defence of his rights, yet should not be regarded as a Rebel against his Queen and country."—[*Montreal Pilot*, 23rd February, 1849.]

8. In the debate of the 20th, this justification was further urged by Dr. Davignon, another supporter of the Ministry:—

"Was it because among those persons there were some who, like his own friend the member for Richelieu, would not suffer without resistance, that such claims should not be paid. All parties acknowledged that the course of resistance adopted on that occasion was justifiable."—[*Montreal Pilot*, Supplement, 21st February, 1849.]

9. Mr. Scott, M. P. P. for Two Mountains, for whose apprehension a reward of £500 was offered in 1837, and now one of the supporters of your present Ministry, thus gave his reasons, in the debate of the 20th, for his having joined the Rebels.

"At that time he had separated himself from his friends and relatives, and joined his French Canadian neighbours, because he thought that they had justice on their side."—[*Montreal Pilot*, 21st February, 1849.]

10. Benjamin Holmes, Esq., the colleague of Mr. LaFontaine in the representation of Montreal, and a strong supporter of the Ministry, made use of the following language in the debate of the 20th February:

"The people were to be insulted, their liberties trampled upon; but no efforts were to be made to maintain their rights. That might be called *loyalty to the Crown*; but he would call it by another name,—he would call it *tyranny to the people*. * * * He had found himself arrayed in 1837 and 1838 on the side of those who put the rebellion down, yet he now hesitated not to say that he had not then searched into the causes of that rebellion so narrowly as he had done since, or he would have been ashamed to be found on that side."—[*Montreal Pilot*, Supplement, 21st February, 1849.]

These extracts will surely suffice to show Your Lordship the view taken of "the un-

fortunate occurrences" of 1837 and 1838 by your present advisers and their supporters in the House of Assembly; and I beg leave humbly to submit to Your Lordship, whether those who held such language as this—language unchecked by a single member of the ministerial majority—could, without the sacrifice of all reason, consistency, or justice, refuse compensation for the "outrages caused by "Goths and Vandals" on those "oppressed" people, who, "lashed into rebellion" by the "spurious, slavish, bullying loyalty" of a "contemptible and pitiful minority" of "rebel" "tyrants," took up arms against their Queen, in a "justifiable course of resistance?"

These two lines of argument were those principally used from the ministerial benches, to defend the proposition to pay the losses of Rebels; in addition to the assertion—which I shall afterwards examine—that they were pledged to it by the action of the previous Government. But some bolder genius occasionally stepped aside from the beaten track and adduced an argument which had at least the charm of novelty.

Of such a character was that used by Mr. Hincks in his circular of the 10th February—an argument which might have had some force had the proposition to tax the loyal in order to pay the rebel been resisted on mere pecuniary grounds alone, and not, as it really was, on the immutable principles of honour, justice, and loyalty.

"To the people of Upper Canada the question is of no pecuniary importance. The losses of parties whose claims are admitted to be just by Sir Allan McNab and Mr. Sherwood, and who never were engaged in the Rebellion, would amount to more than £100,000, which is the utmost amount that it is proposed to grant. The practical effect, therefore, of admitting the disputed claims, would simply be to reduce the proportionate amount payable to the other claimants." [*Montreal Pilot*, Extra, 26th Feb., 1849.]

The whole amount of claims submitted to the Commission of Inquiry was, I believe, upwards of £250,000, of which £100,000, according to Mr. Hincks, were claimed by

partic
vern
Other
Mr. I
shilli
claim
those
In
tactil
the p
to Yo
in sup
inten
I.
in the
were
to the
leave
judic
1.
rmary
tenac
tions,
"H
claims
£23,00
Woul
paying
certain
would
rebelli
Pilot,
2.
by th
Toron
"Pe
prever
in thei
the cla
rebelli
fied in
reply.
3.
was
Sherb
"A
would
questi
give th
compen
(The
*See