

financial policy and public measures were submitted for consideration and, if it can be shown that he has made himself unworthy of our support, or confidence, then is the time to censure and condemn him, but not before. He (Mr. Ferguson) was sorry to find that, as usual, the gentlemen on the opposition side of the House are too ready to find fault, even condemn, without a trial. The hon. member for West Durham, along with others, complains about the *personnel* of the present Government, and declares that a serious injustice has been perpetrated against his party because the principles of the coalition have been departed from, and yet sir, in his own consistent style, he declares that he rejoices over it.

Mr. Blake—I do rejoice over it.

Mr. Ferguson—The hon. gentleman reiterates the statement that he does rejoice over it, no doubt he does. He is somewhat like a great man of a remote period, a true patriot of another country, of whom it is said that he "fiddled" while Rome was burning. Indeed it is quite evident that he would care even less about the country than he does if he could, without seeming to care for it, to get his own designs accomplished. He cared very little about the cost or trouble to which the country would be put in the event of an election at this moment. He cared nothing about the great project of Confederation, whether it was consummated or otherwise. All he did care for was to destroy the present Government, not because of the recent changes that have been made in it, but because he is, as he always has been, opposed to a Coalition, and would do anything and everything to renew old party strifes, hoping that something might turn up out of the ruins, by which he might profit. For his (Mr. Ferguson's) part, although he had as little to fear from an election as many members of the House, he thought it would be a great calamity to break up the Cabinet at the present juncture of affairs, or to force an election upon the people unnecessarily; and, as far as he was concerned, he felt it to be his duty to support the Coalition, as he had done hitherto, until he could see some better cause for a change than had, as yet, presented itself.

Hon. Sir Francis Hincks said it was only due to the respect of the House that he should offer a few remarks after all that had been said. He had supposed that he would not have had anything to say respecting his appointment till after the meeting of Parliament; but a few weeks ago he had read in a newspaper report a speech of the member for North Lanark. After reading that speech he felt it his duty to himself to take the earliest opportunity of communicating with the gentlemen whom he

plaint de la composition de l'actuel Gouvernement et déclare qu'on a commis une grave injustice envers son parti en s'éloignant des principes de la coalition et cependant, Monsieur, dans son style habituel, il déclare s'en réjouir.

M. Blake— Je m'en réjouis vraiment.

M. Ferguson—dit que l'honorable député répète qu'il s'en réjouit, n'en doutons pas. Il ressemble un peu à un grand homme d'un autre temps, un vrai patriote d'un autre pays, de qui l'on a dit qu'il jouait de la lyre pendant que Rome brûlait. Il est évident que s'il le pouvait, il se soucierait encore moins de son pays, sans le faire voir, pour parvenir à ses fins. Il s'inquiète très peu des dépenses ou des troubles que des élections entraîneraient si elles avaient lieu maintenant. Il ne se préoccupe nullement du grand projet de la Confédération, de sa réalisation ou de son échec. Une seule chose l'intéresse, détruire le Gouvernement actuel, non à cause des récents changements à l'intérieur de celui-ci, mais parce qu'il est opposé, comme il l'a toujours été, à une coalition, et qu'il ferait n'importe quoi pour raviver les vieilles querelles partisans, espérant y trouver quelque chose à son profit. Quant à lui (M. Ferguson), et à l'instar de nombreux membres de la Chambre, des élections ne représentent que peu de risques, mais il estime qu'il serait désastreux d'en imposer inutilement la tenue au peuple ou de dissoudre le Cabinet dans les circonstances actuelles. Personnellement, il juge de son devoir de soutenir la coalition, comme il l'a toujours fait, jusqu'à ce qu'on propose un motif plus valable qui pourrait justifier une modification.

L'honorable sir Francis Hincks dit que ce n'est que par respect pour la Chambre s'il émet quelques observations après tout ce qui a été dit. Il n'avait jugé devoir se prononcer sur sa nomination qu'après la réunion du Parlement, mais un article de journal, paru il y a quelques semaines et rapportant un discours du député de Lanark-Nord, a modifié ses plans. Il a alors estimé de son devoir immédiat de faire part des circonstances lui ayant permis d'obtenir un siège au cabinet à tous ceux qui, selon lui, ont

[Mr. Ferguson—M. Ferguson.]