

witness for the complainant. Instead of this clause being struck out he would like to see it amended so that both the wife of the defendant and the wife of the plaintiff should be competent witnesses for both parties, and that all four of them should be competent to give evidence. This would make the Bill more efficient, more full and competent than at present.

Amendment *negatived* on a division.

MR. TASCHEREAU moved in amendment:

"That the Bill be recommitted to a Committee of the Whole, with instructions that they have the power to amend it by adding on line 13 after the word 'witness' the following words: 'for the prosecution or.'"

Amendment *agreed to*.

House accordingly *resolved* itself into Committee of the Whole.

(In the Committee.)

Bill, as amended, *ordered* to be reported.

House *resumed*.

Bill reported *read the third time* and *passed*.

House adjourned at  
Twenty minutes before  
Twelve o'clock.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

*Thursday, 21st March, 1878.*

The Speaker took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

### BILL INTRODUCED.

The following Bill was introduced and *read the first time*:—

Bill (No. 55) To amend the law respecting Building Societies.—(Mr. Gibbs, South Ontario).

### QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE.

MR. BROOKS said, before the Orders of the Day were called, he wished to call the attention of the House to an article which appeared yesterday in the *Toronto Globe*. If it had only affected himself he would have abstained from saying anything, but, as

it affected a large number of gentlemen belonging to the legal profession, ascribing to them motives that seemed to him to be extremely dishonourable, he would read the article, which was supposed to have been written or inspired by a member of the House. If this was the case, the gentleman to whom it was imputed would have done better if he had made the statement on the floor of the House rather than anonymously. The article referred to a matter of very great interest at the present time—the independence of Parliament in Quebec. It was as follows.—

"Recent revelations have shown that a considerable number of the Quebec representatives in Opposition in the House of Commons have solid reasons for condemning the action of Lieut.-Governor Letellier, and for feeling very sorely, and resenting very strongly, the presence of a Liberal Administration in Quebec. There were several nice pleasant places occupied, till recently, by several of those patriotic gentlemen when they were removed by Mr. Joly. Here are some of them, it being as yet impossible to ascertain the ramifications of the DeBoucherville system of patronage: Messrs. Baby, Macdougall (Three Rivers), Mousseau, Brooks, Caron, Colby, Hurteau, Gill and Ouimet,—all Crown prosecutors in their several districts, getting from \$1,000 to \$4,000 per year apiece."

He had taken the opportunity of investigating the Public Accounts for the Province of Quebec for the last two years, or rather for the years 1875 and 1876. He had been unable to find in the library or any of the Departments the Public Accounts of Quebec for 1877. He found that nine gentlemen were here charged with being directly in the pay of the Local Government, and with receiving large sums for services said to have been rendered by them to that Government—all alleged to be members of the legal profession. He himself was perhaps the principal offender, and he was quite willing to admit anything that could be fairly charged against him in this respect. For the last seventeen or nearly eighteen years, he had acted as Crown Prosecutor in the Judicial District in which he resided. His first appointment to that position was under the late Sir George Cartier, it was continued by his successor, the present Chief Justice of the Court of